AJL, like all professional organizations, relies on the generosity of members who devote time and effort to its success. There are always a few individuals who extend their generosity further. Many serve as members of the organization’s Board and Council. The Board, comprised of the organization’s elected officers, is responsible for the general operation of AJL, and sets and oversees the budget. The Council includes the officers, as well as committee chairs and others appointed by the President. Three members of AJL agreed to speak about their roles on these administrative bodies. Rebecca Jefferson is the president of the RAS Division (Research Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections). Kathy Bloomfield is the president of the SSC Division (Schools, Synagogues, and Centers Division). Both are members of the Board and Council. Jim Rosenbloom is the National Conference Chair and is a member of the Council.

Rebecca Jefferson is the Head of the Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida (Gainesville, FL). As an elected officer, she is currently serving as the President of the Research Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections (RAS) Division. In this role, she assists with the efforts of the Conference Committee, and she is responsible for applying for conference travel funding support for overseas members. Furthermore, Rebecca supervises the work of the RAS Vice President on the RAS Bibliography and Reference Awards Committee. This committee reviews publications from the past year to choose a winner for each award. Rebecca’s volunteer efforts at AJL also include being a member of the Judaica Librarianship editorial board and serving as a co-editor of the adult reviews section of AJL Reviews.

Kathy Bloomfield, Executive Assistant to the Clergy of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation (Bethesda, MD), has been an active member of AJL for many years. In her position on the Executive Board, Kathy is the President of the Schools, Synagogues, and Centers (SSC) Division. She oversees the many SSC Committees, including the Sydney Taylor Awards Committees, and chairs the Groner-Wikler Scholarship Committee. In addition, she reviews children’s books for AJL Reviews. Kathy is passionate about Jewish children’s literature and considers the AJL a great organization for those with similar interests.

James Rosenbloom, Judaica Librarian at Brandeis University (Waltham, MA), is a long standing member of the AJL. He is a past vice-president and president of the RAS Division, as well as past president of AJL. As National Conference Chair, he seeks out locations for future conferences and works to form a local planning committee for the conference. In the case of the upcoming New York conference, he is also serving as local chair. He coordinates the activities of the committee and works with others in AJL, such as the conference registrar, the chair of advertising, and fund raisers. Planning a conference is an ambitious and time-consuming job. As the National Conference Chair, Jim has to work with local members to find a reasonably priced hotel and site for the conference, to deal with audiovisual issues, and to select and work with the caterer. In each case he negotiates contracts. He believes that the 2017 conference will be a great success.

On the AJL Website, every AJL member has access to the complete description of the roles and responsibilities of Board, Council, and Committee members. What that description won’t tell you, is that those individuals – like Kathy, Rebecca, and Jim - have a great deal of enthusiasm for the Association and the dissemination of knowledge about Jewish libraries, Jewish publications, Jewish culture, and Israel. They all bring a great deal of passion and experience to their roles within the AJL.
The Association of Jewish Libraries encourages the publication of outstanding works of Judaica reference and bibliography through its annual awards. We are pleased to announce that the Judaica Reference award winner for titles published in 2016 was given to *Comprehensive English-Yiddish Dictionary (based on the lexical research of Mordkhe Schaechter)* edited by Gitl Schaechter-Viswanath, Paul Glasser (editors in chief) and Chava Lapin (associate editor), published by the Indiana University Press, 2016.

This dictionary is a most valuable comprehensive reference tool for a major Jewish language. It brings Yiddish to the 21st century, emphasizing Yiddish as a living language that is spoken in many places around the world. It has substantially more entries than previous standard Yiddish dictionaries with close to 50,000 entries and 33,000 subentries. The richness of dialect differences and historical developments are noted in words and expressions, phrases and sayings that can be found in classic and contemporary literature, newspapers, and other sources of the written word and have long been used by professionals and tradesmen, in synagogues, at home, in intimate life, and wherever Yiddish-speaking Jews have lived and worked. It fills in huge numbers of gaps in the older volumes, adds up-to-date terminology, and gives more accurate and much more complete translations. Thus, even though it is geared to the present and future it does not neglect traditional Jewish content. AJL Reference Award Committee members expressed their admiration for this work, describing it as a monumental achievement, a product of many years of intensive research, with a clear introduction, bibliography guidelines, tables, and abbreviations. It is useful not only for those who want to express themselves in Yiddish, but also for those who are translating from Yiddish into English and want to explore the nuances of different Yiddish words by looking up the corresponding English entries. The award committee agreed that this work is a must for anyone who has anything to do with Yiddish or with translation in either direction.

Groner-Wikler Scholarship awarded to Annette Goldsmith

Submitted by Kathleen M. Bloomfield, SSC president

It is my honor and pleasure to inform the AJL Community that Annette Goldsmith of Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel in Los Angeles, CA is the winner of the 2017 Groner-Wikler Scholarship. This scholarship, generously underwritten by KarBen Publishing, is presented to an AJL member who demonstrates dedication to Jewish children's literature and library services.

Annette’s application highly impressed the Scholarship Committee. Please join me in congratulating Annette on her winning this scholarship. We thank Joni Sussman and KarBen Publishing for their generosity in enabling our community to have extraordinary librarians like Annette join us at our conferences.
Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee – New members announcement
Submitted by Ellen Tilman, Chair

Rena Citrin and Marjorie Shuster are joining the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee. They officially begin their four year committee service at the AJL Conference in June 2017. They have already started to receive and review submissions for this award.

Rena is teacher/librarian at the Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School in Chicago. She is active in the Chicago chapter of AJL and is a frequent children’s book reviewer for AJL. Marjorie recently became the librarian at Congregation Emanuel of the City of New York. She has many years’ experience as a day school librarian.

The STBA Committee received amazing applications from a large number of candidates and had a difficult time selecting only two new members for the committee. Everyone who applied was extremely qualified and capable. We will again seek new STBA members in the late fall of 2017 to replace several existing members whose service on the committee ends in June 2018.

Opening on Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee
Submitted by Aileen Grossberg

The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee will soon be starting to evaluate manuscripts for the 2018 award. We have an opening on the committee. Members read, evaluate, and choose a manuscript that fits the award’s criteria. For specific information on the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award, please go to the AJL website.

Committee members must be able to meet deadlines, have experience in evaluating books, and be familiar with children’s literature although they need not be working in the field of children’s literature. The committee is especially interested in members from the South and Midwest. The bulk of the committee work is done between October and mid-January.

If you are interested in choosing the next great Jewish themed children’s book, please send a resume and 2 writing samples to Aileen Grossberg at aidonna@aol.com.

Children’s Literature Comprehensive Database Webinar to be held at
the NYC Conference
Submitted by Uri Kolodney, Editor-in-Chief, AJL News / AJL Reviews

What: CLCD 101 and beyond: “Live webinar” with Bill Payne, Vice President Sales & Marketing, CLCD.

When: Monday, June 19, 9:30 to 11am

Where: Hebrew Union College, Brookdale Center, 1 West 4th St, New York, NY

Why: AJL supplies CLCD with reviews for their database. In return, AJL member libraries are entitled for free membership and access to the database. CLCD would like to present those who take benefit of this ‘perk’ the new platform and its capabilities. Attendees would walk away with some very helpful tools they didn’t know they had available to them.

No registration required. Just show up! The room has maximum capacity of 25 people. Attendees are encouraged to bring their laptops, but this is not required.
The Stones Remember: a Presentation by Barbara Goldberg, Poet and Translator from the Hebrew
SUBMITTED BY YERMIYAHU AHIRON TAUB, ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES/CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER PRESIDENT

On Sunday, April 30, 2017, poet and translator Barbara Goldberg gave a fascinating presentation to members of the Association of Jewish Libraries/Capital Area Chapter (AJL/CAC) and various guests. Goldberg is the author of five prize-winning books of poetry, including The Royal Baker’s Daughter, which won the Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry. She and her late husband, the renowned Israeli poet Moshe Dor (1932-2016), co-translated numerous works, including Dor’s Scorched by the Sun and Ronny Someck’s The Fire Stays in Red.

Goldberg read poems from Dor’s latest book, In Praise of Hate including “Rehōt” (“Aroma”), “Bi-shevah ha-sin’ah,” (“In Praise of Hate”) and one of his more erotic poems “Topografyah” (“Topography”), in which the beloved’s body is compared to the landscape of the Holy Land. She and Dor also co-translated The Fire Stays in Red, by Ronny Someck. Goldberg chose to read “Yasmin” (“Jasmine. Poem about Sand-Paper”) as typical of Somek’s colloquial style. The poems by Dor were in a high literary Hebrew, rich with sensual descriptions and evocative descriptions of Israeli land- and cityscapes. Someck’s poem was also quite sensual, but written more in the Hebrew of the streets. Goldberg then some of her own poems inspired by Israel, as well as “Carvel” (please see the poem following this report) and “Star,” both from her book The Royal Baker’s Daughter. Audience members were therefore treated to a range of poetic styles and approaches. The dramatic, powerful English-language poems of her own concerned her father, a refugee to the United States from Germany during the Holocaust, and his long-lasting effect on her and her family. He died when Ms. Goldberg was just fourteen years old.

Goldberg spoke extensively about her work as a translator. Both translated each other’s work. She worked closely with Dor on the translations of his poems (and those of numerous other Hebrew-language poets) into English. Dor would produce a rough, literal draft from the Hebrew, then Goldberg would crafted that version into an English-language poem. Goldberg cited the famed dictum regarding translation: “Translation is like a woman. If it is beautiful, it is not faithful. If it is faithful, it is not beautiful.” This dictum is ascribed to various writers from Yevgeny Yevtushenko to Victor Hugo. Another metaphor likens translation to kissing a bride through a veil. But Goldberg believes the source of the quote must be Italian, because of the famous word play between traduttore (translator) and traditore (traitor). Put another way, for a translation to work — to have beauty — it can’t be a faithful word-for-word rendering of the original. If the translation is too “faithful,” it will end up being “clunky” or “awkward.” For the translation to succeed, it must succeed on its own term in the “new” language. Goldberg cited Hebrew’s economy and logic as one of its defining characteristics.

Additionally, there are some elements of Hebrew that are particularly challenging for the translator. For example, the second person singular pronoun — at and atah — is gendered in Hebrew, whereas it is not in English. A Hebrew-language poet who uses “at” or “atah” conveys a specific gender to the reader. Goldberg noted that this choice of gender has particular resonance when used by gay poets. This word choice cannot be easily replicated in English, which simply uses “you.”

When Dor was in the United States, he longed for his homeland. When he was in Israel, he longed for Goldberg. This tension informed Dor’s poems as well as their personal relationship and their work together as translators.

Goldberg regularly visited Israel. Like many Americans, she was struck initially by what she perceived as Israeli aggressiveness and intensity. Later, she came to see their generosity, openness to help, whatever the hour of the day or night, and their follow-through on commitments. During her visits to Israel, she became familiar with Israeli poets, including Mordechai Geldman, Chaim Gouri, Varda Genossar, Orit Gidali, Mira Meir, Shin Shifra, Asher Reich, Ruhanna Weiss, among many others.

Sponsored by AJL/CAC and Israel House, this Sunday poetry salon provided attendees with exposure to the work of three distinguished poets and a captivating conversation about the translation process.
in general and translation from the Hebrew in particular. The Capital Area Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries offers its deepest thanks to Barbara Goldberg for sharing her work, Gail Shirazi for hosting the salon, and to all audience members for their attendance and lively input.

**Carvel**

*by Barbara Goldberg*

In the summer, when the days were light longer, we’d pile in the car and drive down Metropolitan Avenue for soft ice cream at Carvel’s. Those nights we could have been a regular American family out for a spin whose father maybe tossed a ball with his kids, or tousled their hair, or let himself be tickled. But we knew his moods would return, when we’d tiptoe around house, lay low. This was the fifties, there was Korea, but it was far away and it wasn’t our war and they weren’t murdering our people. Later I’d learn, but only much later, after

he was long gone, that he gave our blue Persian carpet to Franz Smetana, who was broke and could sell it for cash. He also gave money to his mother’s seven brothers and sisters, and some got out in time, dispersing to Israel, Australia, South Africa. Or the year he paid the bills for the Swiss sanitarium my uncle stayed at after the war to put on fat. These kindnesses, these things my father did without thinking twice, what to say about them, about him? Except that how a man treats his own children is only one part of the story. And there are others.


For more information about Barbara Goldberg’s work, please see www.barbaragoldberg.net.

**Chapter Chatter**

**AJL South California**

**Submitted by Lisa Silverman**

AJLSC (with most of the work done by Ellen Cole, President) has once again compiled a wonderful list of the best books of 2016, which is now available exclusively on the AJLSC webpage. Read online or download our yearly list and make as many copies as you would like. We offer an adult list of fiction and non-fiction, and a children’s list of picture books, middle grade books, and YA.

In order to remain relevant into the coming year, the lists are entitled, “A Selected List of Recent Books for 2017” – and all books have a 2016 copyright. They serve as useful handouts at Jewish libraries.
LONG ISLAND CHAPTER  
SUBMITTED BY WENDY A. MARX, PRESIDENT

It is hard being President for life of our Long Island chapter (No one wants the position!). We of LI-AJL took a hiatus for a while but we’re back. Exciting programs from our last year included:

What is new in Jewish Book publishing breakfast at a local Kosher Kafe was a Koffee Klatsch Kamraderie schmoozefest with 15 members (and our LI AJL paid for it!).

Book and author program by renowned author Maggie Anton was a joint venture with local sisterhoods. Her book Fifty Shades of Talmud: what the First Rabbis had to say about you-know-what was a hit even with my Rabbi!

Joint program with the Israel Center for Conservative Judaism hosted Bob Socolof whose program “What is happening on College Campus: anti-Semitism/Anti-Israel 101” was eye opening.

This last April, we held a presentation by our membership chair, Arlene Ratzabi on the book Bibliotech, Why Libraries matter more than ever in the Age of Google by John Palfrey. Arlene reprised the program given at conference last year for our LI AJL members.

May 2017 features Alba Toscano, librarian of Sinagoga La Javura, Valencia, Spain, explaining “Building a collection from the Inside out.... from the Dark side of the Moon”.

ONTARIO CHAPTER  
SUBMITTED BY ANNE DUBLIN

On May 4, 2017, AJL-Ontario, in partnership with the Sarah & Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre (Toronto), was pleased to offer the program, “New Dimensions in Testimony”, from the USC Shoah Foundation.

“New Dimensions in Testimony is a collection of testimonies designed as an interactive educational tool to permit students far into the future to ‘talk’ with Holocaust survivors about their life experiences. Though this emergent technology is still developing, the beta version already enables students to interact with the projected image of a real Holocaust survivor, which responds to questions in real time. The survivor selected for the demo project, Pinchas Gutter, is among the nearly 55,000 survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and genocide whose testimonies live in the Visual History Archive.” – USC Shoah Foundation website.

 Afterwards, participants had the opportunity to hear testimony from Neuberger survivor speaker, Leonard Vis. The program was well attended and the participants were enthusiastic about this new technology.

AJL Membership Meeting Minutes  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY NANCY SACK, AJL SECRETARY

Charleston, South Carolina  
June 20, 2016


President Yaffa Weisman called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.
1. Approval of minutes from June 22, 2015 membership meeting
   A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sheryl Stahl and seconded by Toby Harris. The
   minutes of the June 22, 2015 membership meeting in Silver Spring were accepted.

2. SSC Report (Kathy Bloomfield)
   SSC officers reported on their accomplishments since last year. The two winners of the Sydney Taylor
   Book Award were *Ketzel, The Cat Who Composed* and *The Hired Girl*. The Sydney Taylor Manuscript
   Award went to *Honey and Me*. Attendees suggested program topics for next year’s conference.

3. RAS Report (Michelle Chesner)
   RAS members discussed the possibility of affiliation with the Association of Jewish Studies, and
   talked about the plans to create webinars in association with ALA Editions. Several RAS members
   had met with the development team from Elevate during the conference to propose programs for
   potential funding. Heidi Lerner is stepping down as chair of the Cataloging Committee; a new chair
   will be appointed. *Judaica Librarianship* will accept reviews of digital and physical exhibitions in
   addition to book reviews. The winner of this year’s Reference Award was *The Edinburgh Companion
to Modern Jewish Fiction*; no bibliography award was made this year. An AJL/ALA joint program
   will take place at ALA’s annual conference in Orlando.

4. President’s announcements (Yaffa Weisman)
   Attendees were asked to complete the conference evaluation forms and reminded that the Mazon
   food drive would be held at tomorrow’s dinner.

5. Member relations (Heidi Rabinowitz)
   Heidi Rabinowitz, incoming chair of the Member Relations Committee, solicited ideas for future
   outreach. The 2015 Readukkah Challenge will be followed this year by a summer reading challenge.
   The discussion of the book *Bibliotech* at the Charleston conference will be podcast on the Book of
   Life blog. Heidi distributed business cards with information about AJL.

6. 2017 Conference (Jim Rosenbloom)
   The 2017 conference in New York will decouple meeting space and the hotel. Meetings will be held
   at Hebrew Union College, located at One W. 4th Street. A block of rooms will be reserved at the
   Edison Hotel near Times Square, which is close to the subway that goes directly to HUC.

7. Installation of New Officers
   Yaffa thanked the board and council members who have served the past two years and recognized
   Joy Kingsolver’s contributions as parliamentarian. Heidi announced the election results and the
   new officers were installed:
   - President: Amalia Warshenbrot
   - Past President: Yaffa Weisman
   - Vice President/President-Elect: Dina Herbert
   - Secretary: Nancy Sack
   - Vice President for Membership: Shulamis Hes
   - Vice President for Development: Fred Isaac
   - Treasurer: Pat Fenton
   - SSC President: Kathleen Bloomfield
   - SSC Vice President: Susan Kusel
   - RAS President: Rebecca J.W. Jefferson
   - RAS Vice President: Rachel Simon

   Yaffa summarized the work on the two main goals of her presidency: strategic planning and development. As past
   president, Yaffa will become chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. With that, she passed the gavel to Amalia.
   The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm.
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.” More information about the conference can also be found in the February/March 2017 issue of AJL News.
### Tuesday, June 20, 2017

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<td>9:00-5:00</td>
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### Wednesday, June 21, 2017

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<td>Practical Case Studies</td>
<td>Reference Sources in Jewish Studies</td>
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<td>Collections of the Past, the Present, and the Future</td>
<td>Focus on: Collection Highlights</td>
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<td>Conference Recap</td>
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### Thursday, June 22, 2017

- Paul Glassman on NYC Synagogues

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AJL News May/June 2017
**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

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**AJL Scholarship Donation Form**

**Name of Donor:**

__________________________________________

**Address and email of Donor:**

__________________________________________

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__________________________________________

**Donation made in honor/memory of:**

__________________________________________

**Name of person(s) to receive card:**

__________________________________________

**Address of person(s):**

__________________________________________

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**Notes:**

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**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.
Credits and Contact

Association of Jewish Libraries
P.O. Box 1118
Teaneck, NJ 07666
(201) 371-3255

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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