



The State of AJL's Strategic Plan

SUBMITTED BY JACKIE BEN-EFRAIM

First of all, many of you be asking, what exactly is a strategic plan. A strategic plan is a vision of your organization's future and what goals and objectives need to be achieved in order to fulfill that vision. For the last 3 years, AJL's Strategic Planning committee has been working hard to come up with a mission and a vision to make our organization relevant to the new face of librarianship today. You can read the complete plan at http://jewishlibraries.org/Strategic_Plan.

Now that the mantle of the Strategic Plan has passed on to a new committee for the next 3 years, I wanted to update our membership as to the what we achieved in the previous 3 years and what we need to work on to keep us relevant.

In order to increase the awareness among individuals and organizations who would benefit from information and programming we provide, AJL's Council approved in June an affiliation program with various other library associations as well as with Jewish organizations, especially those focused on Jewish education. If you belong to another librarian organization and would be interested in acting as a liaison between AJL and the other organization, email me at ajladmanager@gmail.com for more information.

In order to strengthen connections with and among membership to build a sense of professional community that engages current members and attracts new members, we instituted online book and article discussion group to keep our members connected between conferences. There are also several webinars that will be available to our members in the next few months. The webinars are as follows: *Cataloging Jewish Sacred Texts: A Guide for Non-Judaica Specialists* was presented by Sheryl Stahl on Thursday, November 16, 2017; *Building a Jewish Library Collection: A Guide for Non-Judaica Specialists* will be presented by Dr. Rebecca Jefferson on Thursday, December 14, 2017; and *Cataloging General Jewish Topics* will be presented by Sheryl Stahl on January 10, 2018. To register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/y9qdmf2g>. A 10% discount is available for members and affiliates of the AJL. For more information please contact [Sharon Benamou](#) or [Nancy Sack](#).

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.

Is there a book you want to discuss or a webinar you need to enhance your skill? Email me at ajladmanager@gmail.com and I will forward your name to the appropriate chairperson.

Every organization needs a handbook, so AJL's Board and Council have worked diligently to submit information about each position's responsibilities to ensure that AJL's management is efficient, consistent, effective and transparent. The AJL Handbook will ensure a smooth transition as new people assume leadership roles. A master calendar has also been created.

AJL's final, but most important goal is to raise funds so that we will have a fiscally sound future. We plan to create a donor database that will enable our new fundraiser, Bleema Bershad, to help seek the financial support that is vital to our future.

Last, but not least, I want to thank all of our members who have given so generously of their time over the last few years to make all of these achievements possible. The list of planners is long, but it could be longer. If you'd like to join this group of amazing talent, please email me at ajladmanager@gmail.com.

Member Spotlight with Esther van Haaren-Hart

FIRST POSTED ON AJL WEBSITE ON NOVEMBER 5, 2017



Amalia Warshenbrot and Esther van Haaren-Hart, 2017.

Esther van Haaren-Hart is the librarian and general manager of the Foundation at the Maduro Library and Museum housed in the plantation house at Rooi Catootje in Curaçao, Dutch Caribbean.

The foundation is named after Salomon Abraham (Mongui) Levy Maduro (1891-1967) who started collecting documents, books, manuscripts, archival materials and periodicals relating to Curaçao, the Dutch West Indies and his Sephardic Jewish community which goes back to the 17th century. One of the goals of the foundation is to preserve historical collections on subjects of Sephardic Jewish and Dutch Caribbean interest for future research.

The library collection consists of more than 10,000 books, 450 documentation files by subject, containing newspaper clippings and more than one thousand Antillean and Jewish periodicals, collected over a period of more than 100 years. Due to the growth of the collection, the library collection was moved to a state of the art new building, the Ena Dankmeijer-Maduro Pavilion, in 2010. Throughout the years, a wide variety of writers, historians, elementary school students and researchers have consulted the library collection. The library cooperates closely with other academic libraries, both in Curaçao and abroad.

Mrs. van Haaren-Hart is a mother of three and grandmother of one. She attended the 2017 AJL conference, commenting: "I enjoyed this well-organized 52nd conference. There was a great variety in themes, the sessions were well planned and well prepared by the speakers. Networking with participants of so many countries and places in the USA was one of the highlights of the conference. I was very pleased to meet some old library friends and to make new ones. In general I consider the information about digitized materials, many of them online available, as another highlight of the conference."

Esther plans to continue to communicate with AJL in the future to exchange ideas and information on a global scale and to be able to access information through application of advanced technologies

Esther welcomes AJL members and friends to visit her library's website at www.madurolibrary.org to get acquainted with the library and the museum collection. Esther encourages all to visit the island and the facilities in person, like so many Jewish groups have done in the past and are still doing.

53rd Annual Conference: Call for Papers

Monday June 18, to Wednesday June 20, 2018

Temple Israel

477 Longwood Ave.
Boston, MA

The AJL 2018 Conference Committee is now soliciting paper proposals for its annual conference at Temple Israel of Boston from Monday, June 18 - Wednesday, June 20, 2018. Librarians, archivists, scholars, educators, authors, and others will meet to share their interest in Judaica librarianship, Jewish history and culture, and related topics.

The programing committee is soliciting proposals for papers and presentations on all aspects of Judaica librarianship as it pertains to libraries, archives, museums, schools, synagogues, and related institutions. Past topics have included: collection management, programming, reader advisory services, special and rare collections, cataloging and classification, digital and electronic resources and emerging technologies. Presentations on Jewish resources in Boston, Boston Jewish library collections and local authors would be especially welcomed.

Submissions should include the following:

- Presenter's name, address, affiliation, telephone and email contacts.
- Brief biography
- Title of proposed presentation
- Summary of proposal
- Specific technology or equipment requirements, if any

All submissions must be received by November 30, 2017. Please submit proposals by e-mail (PREFERRED) to: conference@jewishlibraries.org

Proposals will be reviewed by the Program Planning Committee, which is composed of national and local AJL members. Notification will be made in January 2018.

Harvey Sukenic
Hebrew College Library
Local Chair Program Planning Committee

News from the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee

SUBMITTED BY AILEEN GROSSBERG, CHAIR

The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Competition Committee is delighted to announce that Helene Tuchman has agreed to return to the committee for another year to fill the position vacated by Heidi Rabinowitz whose new position with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (PJ Library) poses a conflict of interest.

Helene brings experience as a professional librarian who worked for 25 years at the public library in Watertown, MA. From 1992-2007, she was also the librarian at Temple Emanuel in Newton, MA. Helene is currently reading for a group called Island Readers and Writers in Maine where she picks really special children's books for programming.

Now that the committee is at full strength, we are about to start reading this year's manuscripts which cover a wide variety of genres and subjects.

The winning manuscript will be announced in January to coincide with the announcement of other AJL awards and the ALA children's book awards.

There are two anticipated openings for next year's (2019) award committee. Interested AJL members are invited to send a CV and writing samples to stmacajl@aol.com. Potential committee members should be able to meet deadlines and have experience with children's literature although they need not be currently employed in that field.

New committee members will be announced at the end of the current award year.

Susan Krawitz, winner of the 2015 Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award, for *Viva, Rose!* was a featured speaker at the Jewish Book Council's Jewish Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' Seminar on November 12 in New York City. Kirkus Reviews noted that in *Viva, Rose!* "politics and prejudice against Mexicans makes this coming-of-age the stand out from its ilk." and kidsbookbuzz.com commented that *Viva, Rose!* "tells a captivating story of one girl's journey to realizing true freedom."

All AJL members are asked for help in spreading the word about the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award, especially to college and university writing programs and local writer groups.

Chapter Chatter

AJL-ONTARIO

SUBMITTED BY ANNE DUBLIN

Anne Dublin, award-winning author of books for young people, has spoken on the topic, “Why Should Young Adults Read Holocaust Literature, Anyway?” on November 8, 2017 at the Holocaust Museum, Toronto. She examined important developmental tasks of adolescents and related these tasks to three types of Holocaust literature – historical novels, memoirs, and diaries. This interactive lecture was part of Holocaust Education Week and was sponsored by the AJL-Ontario chapter.

In addition, we have recently launched a [new website!](#) It is very exciting for our members to have easy access to information about local and international Judaica librarianship. Please visit our website at <http://ajlontario.org/>.

LONG ISLAND, NY (LIAJL)

SUBMITTED BY WENDY A. MARX

We of the [Long Island Chapter](#) were thrilled attending the AJL conference in NYC this past June.

We are gearing up for winter: November Museum trip to the [Museum of Jewish Heritage](#) in downtown NYC, and book & author talk in December.

It is lots of work to keep our chapter going and yet we have dedicated members who show up. As discussed before, we partner with other Jewish groups to get recognition for the work we do as librarians and to find new members. Any PR for us is good, which is also good for National AJL.

AJL SOUTH CALIFORNIA

SUBMITTED BY ELLEN COLE

Our opening fall meeting featured member David Hirsch, UCLA librarian for Jewish and Middle Eastern Studies. He discussed his most recent sojourns to collect rare Judaica in Iraq, Kurdistan, Pakistan, and Turkey searching for manuscripts for the university's extensive collections. Hirsch speaks or reads 12 different languages, including Arabic, Farsi, Turkish, Armenian, Indonesian, and Swahili. His remarkable facility enables him to connect with sources across the world. He revealed stories and photos of his most stirring acquisitions and future plans for expanding the UCLA library collections. His talks are always popular for their astounding information and warm, humorous delivery.

Don't forget to connect to AJLSC on [Facebook](#). Look for “AJLSC” and “like” us. For other news, visit our fabulous [chapter website](#) run by member Barbara Leff. We are current and interesting!

CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER (AJL/CAC)

SUBMITTED BY YERMIYAHU AHRON TAUB

An Afternoon of Jewish Art with Debra Band

On Sunday, October 22, 2017, members of the Association of Jewish Libraries/Capital Area Chapter (AJL/CAC) gathered for a presentation by scholar and Jewish manuscript artist Debra Band. Ms. Band gave a wide-ranging talk on her practice and several of her recent books, *Kabbalat Shabat: the Grand Unification* (Honeybee in the Garden, 2016) and *Arise! Arise! Deborah, Ruth and Hannah* (Honeybee in the Garden, 2012).



Band's art is characterized by a precision and elegance buttressed by extensive research. Her latest book includes papercuts done on paper with blades, calligraphy in both Hebrew and English, and paintings created on kosher slunk vellum (calfskin taken from a very young calf). The translation and commentary are by Raymond Scheindlin, and the book includes a foreword by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks and a preface by Arthur Green. As Band noted, it was Green who, following the publication of her first book, *The Song of Songs: the Honeybee in the Garden* (JPS, 2005), challenged Band to explore more deeply the Jewish mystical tradition, something she was initially reluctant to do, despite descent from a Hasidic master, due to wariness of careless abuse of mystical thought and her own rationalist leanings. According to her preface, Band developed the Hebrew calligraphic hand for her first book, *The Song of Songs: the Honeybee in the Garden*.

She developed the English calligraphy as an adaptation of the italics developed by Renaissance Italian humanists. Many of the paintings are bordered by micrography, a Jewish book tradition in which words are shaped into designs and contain pertinent allusions to additional texts. Band explicated a number of the paintings in the book, including English and Hebrew ones for the Kiddush service. In the Hebrew one, itself the cover image for the book, wine pours down into and from the vessels representing the *sefirot*, the emanations or characteristics of the Divine. Ms. Band's work draws inspiration from numerous sources, sacred texts, liturgy, rabbinical literature, Kabbalistic texts, and science, particularly astrophysics. Band argued that science and spirituality work in tandem, each enriching the study and practice of the other, each helping us understand and appreciate the beauty and complexity of the universe. On a personal note, Ms. Band also cited the influence on her work of her late first husband, David Band, an astrophysicist.

Band's talk also included a discussion of her previous book, *Arise! Arise!* Here, she went into some detail on the matriarchs of the title. Each of the women was known for their wisdom and was sought out by members of their community for their sage guidance. During her discussion of the story of Hannah, who struggled with infertility and mockery by Peninah, Band related an incident during her first pregnancy when one of her co-workers expressed resentment that she, Band, had conceived "so easily" when she had been struggling for years to get pregnant; this moment poignantly illuminated the ongoing universality of biblical themes. Band interweaved Hannah's personal tale with the national story of the people of Israel. As she noted, every image, every detail in each painting was purposeful.



In addition to her work as a book artist, Band also creates *ketubot* (Jewish marriage contracts). She spends a considerable deal of time with the couple, interviewing them, getting to know what "gets them up in the morning" and integrating those concerns and experiences into visual motifs for the ketubot. She has created hundreds of ketubot, representing another important avenue for her love of the manuscript arts. Her work has toured the United States and Canada, and Band has given talks to a wide range of venues. Band encouraged librarians to help make patrons aware of the richness that awaits them in Jewish sources and texts.

AJL/CAC members in attendance were enchanted by the artistry and insights of Debra Band's presentation. Special thanks to Ms. Band for her talk, to Gail Shirazi for welcoming us into her home, to Nahid Gerstein for organizing the talk, and to all who contributed dishes for the bountiful buffet, itself a mirror of the *shefa* (bounty) present in the Jewish artistic and textual tradition brought so alive by our guest speaker.

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 Scholarship Fund needs help. We gratefully accept donations which can be in memory or in honor of someone. We will send a tribute card (or several). 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 (sarmarbar68@gmail.com)

5646 Hunters Lake

Cincinnati, OH 45249

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

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.

Editor-in-Chief

Uri Kolodney
University of Texas Libraries
The University of Texas at Austin
One University Station S5400
Austin, TX 78712-8916
generaleditor@jewishlibraries.org

Adult Review Editors

Daniel Scheide	Dr. Rebecca Jefferson
S.E. Wimberly Library	Head, Isser and Rae Price
Florida Atlantic University	Library of Judaica
777 Glades Road	539, Library West
Boca Raton, FL 33431-6424	George A. Smathers Libraries
561-297-0519	University of Florida
dascheide@gmail.com	Gainesville, FL. 32611-7010
	Phone: (352) 273-2650
	Fax: (352) 392-8118
	jefferson@ufl.edu

Please send adult books for review to D. Scheide

Children and YA Review Editors

Rachel Kamin
1054 Holly Circle
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
rachelkamin@gmail.com
and Chava (Kathe) Pinchuck
kpinchuck@gmail.com

Please send children's and YA books for review to Rachel Kamin

All links to online resources were checked for accuracy on November 21, 2017.

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

AJL News
November/December 2017
Volume VII, No. 4
ISSN 2160-0902

Copy Editing and Page Layout

Karen Ulric
Golda Och Academy
1418 Pleasant Valley Way
West Orange, NJ 07052
ajlcopyeditor@gmail.com

Please send requests for membership and dues information to:

AJL VP for Membership
Shulamis Hes
Pollack Library
Yeshiva University
500 West 185th St.
New York, NY 10033
membership@jewishlibraries.org

Advertising:

Advertising Rates

Full page	\$200	7 1/2 x 9 1/2
Half-page (vert)	\$110	3 5/8 x 9 1/2
Half-page (horiz)	\$110	7 1/2 x 4 3/4
Quarter-page	\$55	3 5/8 x 4 3/4

Ads may include color and hyperlinks.
Dimensions are in inches

All ads must be prepaid. Please submit all inquiries, finished copy, and checks to:

Jackie Ben-Efraim
Ostrow Library
American Jewish University
15600 Mulholland Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90077
(818) 383-9672 (cell)
ajladmanager@gmail.com