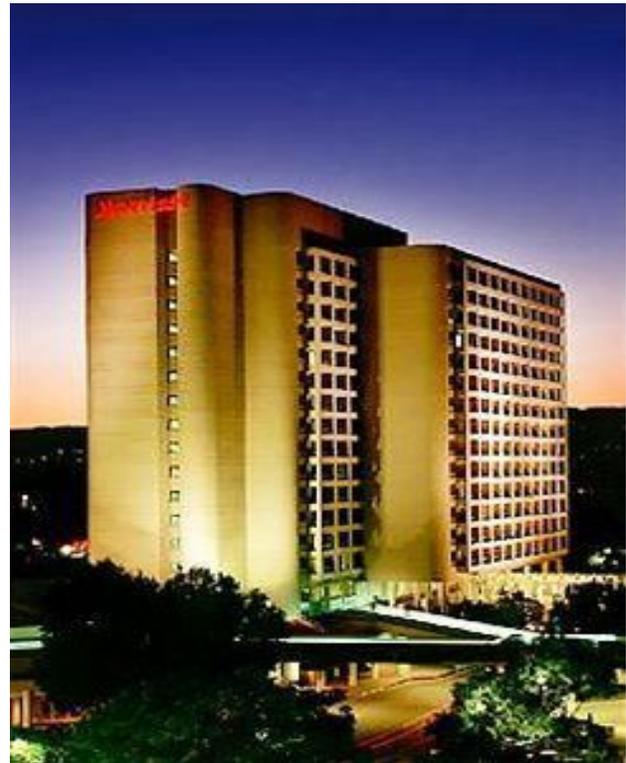


AJL ANNUAL CONFERENCE LOCATION: JUNE 2019
WARNER CENTER
MARRIOTT

21850 Oxnard St.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
June 17 - 19, 2019

The Warner Center Marriott is located in the popular suburbs of the San Fernando Valley, in the city of Los Angeles. It is ideally situated near public transportation and shopping, with a multitude of dining options nearby. More importantly, Woodland Hills has a vibrant Jewish community waiting to meet with Judaica librarians from around the world.



Most of our conference will be held within the beautiful conference center inside the hotel, but we do have special optional tours planned offsite.

I will be sending you updates, along with Lisa Silverman, AJL's National Conference Chair, detailing the programs and special events we are planning for you. Please feel free to contact me with any requests or suggestions you may have.

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Jackie Ben-Efraim, 2019 Local Conference Chair

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ajladmanager@gmail.com

AJL Online



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Rabbi Haim Ovadia Visit to AJL/CAC

BY YERMIYAHU AHRON TAUB



On June 10, 2018, Rabbi Haim Ovadia, Head Rabbi of Magen David Sephardic Congregation (Rockville, Md.) presented a wide-ranging song cycle and discussion of Sephardic/Mizrahi songs for the Association of Jewish Libraries/Capital Area Chapter (AJL/CAC). Rabbi Ovadia structured his presentation around the Jewish life cycle and included songs for weddings, Shabbat, and holidays. At various points, he invited attendees to join him in song.

Rabbi Ovadia stems from an Iraqi-Jewish literary and musical family. He himself was born and raised in Jerusalem. His grandfather was a poet, and three of his siblings are involved in music. His sister Hana Fetaya is a musician, and founder of the group Firqat Alnur for classical Arabic music. Most of his memories of Iraqi-Jewish music are of the family singing together on holidays; there was no musical accompaniment. In contrast to much of western classical music, folk music

can be sung by a group singing together. In Iraqi-Jewish music, there is music for every occasion. Poems are written for different holidays. Arabic music has dozens of scales, whereas western music has four.

In Sephardic/Mizrahi music, "east" means the Middle East, excluding Iran, while "west" refers to the countries of North Africa (e.g. Morocco, Tunisia, etc.). Sephardic/Mizrahi music is characterized by its flexibility and openness to secular tradition that stems all the way back from the Jewish community in Iraq in the sixth-eleventh centuries. Historically, as Rabbi Ovadia argued, Ashkenazi music has been more closed to outside influences. This reality stands in stark contrast to the popular perception of the Middle East as being more conservative. As an illustration, Rabbi Ovadia sang songs that integrated notes of Gershwin's *Summertime* and Simon and Garfunkel's *Sounds of Silence*.

Rabbi Ovadia sang a striking rendition of "Yah Ribon Olam" by Rabbi Yisrael Najara, one of the great poets in the Jewish tradition. He noted that he's sometimes heard this spoken as "Kah Ribon Olam" by those who do not wish to take God's name in vain. However, Rabbi Ovadia believes God's name should be proclaimed in its glory. Najara traveled extensively throughout the Middle East. He was a scholar and liturgical poet who also spoke Arabic. The rhythms and even the words of his songs mimic Arabic music and texts. His songs served as a bridge between Muslims and Arabic-speaking Jews. This spirit of cross-cultural communication was present throughout all of Rabbi Ovadia's own talk. "*Judaism should be enjoyable*," he said. Rabbi Ovadia's warm message of welcome and inclusivity was greatly appreciated by the AJL/CAC audience.

In addition to his vast musical talents and expertise, Rabbi Haim Ovadia has written numerous articles on a variety of Jewish topics. He writes daily postings on Jewish law. His wife Edna is also a talented musician and teacher, and both parents have passed down their love of music to their children.

AJL/CAC extends its deepest thanks to Rabbi Haim Ovadia for sharing his art and expertise, Gail Shirazi for connecting Rabbi Ovadia to the chapter, and Nahid and Steve Gerstein for hosting the event.

The Judaica Bibliography and Reference 2018 Awards

SUBMITTED BY RACHEL SIMON, CHAIRPERSON, JUDAICA BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCE AWARDS COMMITTEE

This year the Judaica Bibliography and Reference Awards Committee was fortunate to be able to award, during the AJL annual conference in Brookline, the Bibliography and the Reference Awards, as well as Honorable Mention for both categories for works published in 2017. We would like to thank the sponsors of these awards for their generous continued support of these awards: Chaim Eric Kline for the Bibliography Award and Dr. Greta Silver for the Reference Award. As the chairperson of the Committee, I would like to thank the Committee members (Amalia Levi, David Levy, Michelle Chesner, and Shulamith Berger), as well as Rebecca Jefferson for their insightful contributions.

JUDAICA BIBLIOGRAPHY AWARD

Sponsored by Chaim Eric Kline

Hollander, David. *Legal Scholarship in Jewish Law: an Annotated Bibliography of Journal Articles* (Getzville, NY: William S. Hein, 2017.)

David Hollander is the Law & Legal Studies Librarian/U.S. Documents Librarian, Research Services, Scholarly Collections and Research Services at Princeton University Library

This annotated bibliography includes faculty-written articles from law review journals, published in English mainly in the USA, but also some from other countries, mainly Britain, Canada, and Israel, whether or not the author is a law professor or a professor in other discipline. It aims to provide the researcher a detailed look at Jewish law. It comes at a time when Jewish law courses, scholarship and collections have been increasing in frequency and size in American law schools for several decades.

The Bibliography is divided into two main sections: General works on Jewish law, and subject specific works in Jewish law (subdivided into more than 30 sections). This is followed by a glossary of terms and an author index. Each entry has a full bibliographical reference and a succinct annotation. The subject specific sections included ones which are often immediately associated with Jewish law (e.g., courts, debt, divorce and marriage, family law, Jewish law in Israel, jurisprudence, and medical-legal issues) but also, among other topics, capital punishment, commercial law, constitutional law, copyright and intellectual property, criminal law, economic law, gifts, human rights, Jewish law and American law, legal ethics and lawyers, self-defense, taxation, torts, and war.

With its broad and clearly divided subject matter this bibliography is of interest to a wide range of scholars and students of numerous aspects of Jewish studies and their relation to Jewish law. Users are guided by the clear and objective annotations which enhance the value of the work and render it more useful than simply running database searches on the topics. It includes articles from dates which may not be in databases since it cites articles going back over a century. It is a major achievement in the field of Jewish law scholarship in particular and Jewish studies in general. It is a useful addition to the literature and of use not only to lawyers, but also to scholars and lay readers who are interested in various Jewish subjects since Jewish law includes so many aspects of Jewish life.

David Hollander's acceptance remarks:

I'd like to sincerely thank the Association of Jewish Libraries and the awards committee for this honor. It's been wonderful to attend the conference, and get to know this organization and its important work. I'd also like to thank the American Association of Law Libraries, the professional association for law librarians. Both organizations support this kind of work, good old-fashioned bibliography, which I think not only



remains important, but is especially important in the digital age. I'd also like to thank my employer, the Princeton University Library for giving its librarians the space and time to work on such projects, and personally, for the two summer research leaves I was granted to finish this book. Finally, of course, I'd like to thank my family. In fact, my highest praise came from my daughter. When I told her why we were traveling to Boston and that we were going to attend an awards dinner, she looked at me quizzically and confused, and asked, "Abba, you wrote a book?" This question amused me especially because I had been working on this book for half of her lifetime! But upon further reflection, her very innocent question seemed to reflect, in a certain way, the work we do as librarians. We often do our work behind the scenes, with little notice, and we rarely receive recognition from the wider world. That makes this recognition from the AJL extra special. Thank you very much.

JUDAICA BIBLIOGRAPHY HONORABLE MENTION

Weiss, Steven J. אוצר פרקי אבות: ביבליוגרפיה של פירושים למסכת אבות שנדפסו משנת רמ"ה (1485) עד שנת תשע"ה (2015) = *Pirke Avot: a Thesaurus: an Annotated Bibliography of Printed Hebrew Commentaries, 1485-2015* (Los Angeles & Jerusalem: S. J. Weiss, 2016)

This is a Labor of love by a medical doctor, based on his personal collection and research in many libraries and consultations with book dealers. It is volume one of three projected volumes on Avot. This is a detailed and thorough annotated bibliography of printed Hebrew commentaries of all six chapters of Avot, mostly published in the 20th century. Most of the works were examined by the author, and he notes those that he did not see. It is arranged chronologically by the Hebrew date of publication, subdivided alphabetically by author. Each of the 1503 entries includes full bibliographical reference (including title, author, place of publication and a succinct annotation. This major part of the book is followed by a list of works cited, photographs, four indices (by title, author, place of publication (until 1950), and category (is it located in a Sidur, for example) and two appendices (seforim with a short segment on Avot with indices, and articles on Avot). It also includes a comprehensive commentary in English regarding the history and publication of commentaries on Avot.

This is a major accomplishment regarding the study in Hebrew on Avot, especially since many commentaries on Avot are not discrete standalone volumes but are located in siddurim and thus not easily identifiable or accessible. It is well arranged, carefully annotated, and of great value for those studying Avot, though for a specialized audience.

Steve Weiss' acceptance remarks:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pirke Avot and the Passover Haggada vie for the greatest number of commentaries over the millennia. Numerous bibliographies of the latter have been compiled, but a comprehensive listing of the Hebrew printed commentaries on Pirke Avot remained a desideratum.

Who doesn't love the aphorisms of "Chapters of the Fathers," "Pirke Avot?" When I fell under its spell, I was completing my Gastroenterology fellowship at UCLA. Since the 1980's I have been collecting and compiling a detailed data base on everything Avot: books, manuscripts, commentaries, translations in 38 languages, academic articles, and even related Judaica artifacts. This wonderful obsession became my second vocation. Thus my 535 page bibliography with 48 color plates. [Pirke Avot: A Thesaurus / An Annotated Bibliography of Printed Hebrew Commentaries, 1485-2015]. Volume 2 is in the editing process.

I thank the Bibliography and Reference Awards Committee members. The Chair - Dr. Rachel Simon, as well as Shulamith Berger, Michelle Chesner, Amalia Levi, and Dr. David Levy for the honor of the "Honorable Mention."

תוירבה תא דבכמה, דבוכמ והזיא

The first Mishna in Chapter Four states, Who is Wise? One who learns from all humanity.

Who is Wealthy? One who is self-sufficient, etc.

And Who is Honored? True honor is deserved by one who honors others.

So it is *you*, the outstanding membership and officials of the Association of Jewish Libraries, who are truly honored. The theme at this culminating dinner is *precisely*: bestowing honor on others. By awarding honorees in so many categories you have all truly earned the respect, honor and recognition of the academic, scholarly, lay, Jewish, general communities and book lovers of all ages. To all of you I want to express my admiration and say: כל הכבוד!!

Who else in Los Angeles but Eric Chaim Kline with his encyclopedic knowledge of books and graphics in all fields, can encourage and guide collecting by a formerly young novice such as myself. Thank you Eric, for sponsoring the AJL bibliography awards. I think yours is the only award opportunity for Jewish bibliographies in the United States, Israel and the world for that matter.

Sorry I'm not with you now, but I can tell you the sun is shining brighter in L.A. in anticipation of next year's AJL Conference. סליגנא סולב האבה הנשל where I hope to personally meet you all. Thank You.

REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY AWARD

Sponsored by Dr. Greta Silver

Bartrop, Paul R. & Dickerman, Michael. *The Holocaust: An Encyclopedia and Document Collection* (Santa Barbara, CA : ABC-CLIO, 2017.)

Paul R. Bartrop is a Professor of History and Director, Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies, Department of Social Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers Florida. [He is during the summer in Australia and is sorry he cannot attend].

Michael Dickerman is a professor at the Department of general Studies, Stockton University, Galloway, N.J. This is a four volume set (1049 pages). The first volume includes the list of entries, which one can further explore through the index at the end of the 4th volume. It also includes an introduction and description of the work, and the entries for A - K. Each entry has a short bibliography and a "see also" note; some entries include illustrations. The second volume includes the entries L - Z, as well as a list of maps, chronology, glossary, bibliography, and lists of contributors and editors. The third volume includes testimonies, starting with a list of the testimonies and a topical guide to them, followed by the testimonies themselves. The fourth volume includes documents on the Holocaust, subdivided into the "Othering" of the Jews, the Nazi assault, Genocide, Responses and other victims, and Post-Holocaust developments.

The work focuses on Europe, though there are entries on Algeria and Turkey. It includes a broad range of themes (e.g., people, places, events, concepts) and is clearly written. It focuses on the Jews, but also deals with "others" (e.g., gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah Witnesses). The listing of testimonies by topic helps to choose by region, camps, etc. The work was produced by an impressive group of contributors, mainly from the USA and Europe. It has an up-to-date bibliography following the entries and a general one in the second volume. All-in-all, it is a very well-produced work, useful and easy to use.

Michael Dickerman's acceptance remarks:

Thank you so much for this award. I speak for Paul Bartrop (who is in his native Australia this summer) and myself when I tell you how much we are honored by this.

The Holocaust Encyclopedia and Document Collection was a two-and-a-half year project. It was very much a work of love. Paul and I have noted over the years how privileged we are to be in a position in our respective universities to teach students about the Holocaust and other genocides around the world. It is a responsibility that we each take very seriously, making the opportunity to bring this project to fruition all the more important to us.



Paul and I had something of a catch phrase that we exchanged with each other through the years we worked on this. It was “*who knew??*” We would use it each time one of us would call the other to share a piece of information about an event, a person, or a document that we simply had never known. Paul is the author of some nineteen books and has studied the Holocaust for thirty years. My time studying and teaching the Holocaust full-time is only ten years, but you’d figure that between us, the number of things we found as absolutely new would be relatively small. But these discoveries happened over and over again. We loved sharing these moments with each other. *Who knew??*

And this: As we were approaching the point when a final manuscript was due to the editor, Paul called me to say – this with great excitement – that he had just counted the number of entries in the two volumes of the encyclopedia: there were 613 entries. While we were secretly hoping to keep the entries at that number, we had to add and subtract some entries before the manuscript was finalized, but it was always there as something special.

In addition to the two volumes of encyclopedia entries, there is an eyewitness volume and a primary document volume. Paul was able to unearth some eyewitness stories that had never been printed and published before. He saw his saving these stories from extinction as a *mitzvah* that moved him deeply.

When I compiled the fourth volume – this of primary documents, some not found in similar collections – I, too, was humbled by the experience of assuring their continued existence, not just in some dusty archive, but in a living work that could speak to students and scholars, hopefully for many years.

I close with this that I wrote as the first paragraph in the introduction to the documents volume:

“The documents that constitute this volume reveal nothing less than the extremes of human nature, exposing both the savagery of the perpetrators and the suffering of the victims. . . . they also reveal the tissue-thin nature of Western civilization during the dark days of the Holocaust: 2,000 years of Western values and culture were rendered impotent in the face of the Holocaust, totally helpless against the combination of a demagogue, an ideology that appealed to the basest of human instincts, a fearful citizenry desperate to hear what it needed to hear, and the power of the state that harnessed these forces and transformed them into terror and death.”

Perhaps through works like this encyclopedia, and especially through *your* work as the guides, gatekeepers and guardians of the resources of learning, maybe we can better protect and strengthen our values and culture so they are never again so threatened.

A deeply felt thank you to the AJL. This is an honor that Paul and I accept with great humility.

REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY HONORABLE MENTION

Zachary Baker, *Resources in Yiddish Studies* [In six parts], *In Geveb*, 2017.

Zachary Baker was the Judaica Librarian at Stanford University and a longtime member of the AJL in which he filled numerous roles. He could not attend this year, first time since 1987! and looks forward to meet everyone next year in LA

This guide to Yiddish studies is published in an online, open access journal. It includes links to other resources where possible, allowing the user to quickly find needed materials. There is an easy option to download the guide as PDF, for printing or other use. The guide is self-aware, with a note that links to online resources may become defunct as sites change and upgrade. There are also plenty of references to physical books (many with links to digital versions), and the guide notes when access is by subscription or open. It is a tremendous boon to researchers and librarians alike, making it easy to find, access, add, and correct references for resources in Yiddish studies.

Zachary Baker's acceptance remarks:

First and foremost, I'd like to thank the Association of Jewish Libraries Judaica Reference and Bibliography Awards Committee for bestowing this honor upon my research guide, "Resources in Yiddish Studies." I've served on that committee in times past and recognize how much effort goes into evaluating reference works that are being considered for these awards.

Resources in Yiddish Studies grew out of a bibliography that I was beginning to compile for inclusion in a print survey of the field. Sadly, one of that volume's two co-editors died quite unexpectedly, so plans to proceed with publication were put on hold. In 2015, I was invited to lead a one-day bibliographical and reference workshop at the University of California - Berkeley, and the syllabus for that workshop drew upon my notes for the unpublished survey volume. Then, about a year later, that syllabus served as a basis for the multi-part research guide, *Resources in Yiddish Studies*.

In contrast to the way things work in the print (or print-first-ebook-second) universe, publication of the six installments in the online scholarly platform *In geveb* took place over a period of several months, in real time (so to speak). And the editors were most obliging in making changes and inserting addenda in the appropriate locations, whenever they were called upon to do. This marked another divergence from more traditional publishing practices. The end result (but is there really an "end result," where reference works are concerned?) is a classified and annotated bibliography that, were it reformatted in 12-point type, would constitute a freestanding, if thin, volume of its own.

When I started out as a librarian I would never have conceived of being able to produce a born-digital publication. *She-hekhiyanu*, that we have lived to see the day when such things are possible! And, as I commented when I was privileged to deliver the Feinsein Lecture more than a decade ago, when I first took up the study of Yiddish as both a personal passion and a research interest, I imagined that I was one of the last of the Mohicans (to use a popular Yiddish metaphor). Instead, as a wise friend of my parents told me back then, I was "getting in on the ground floor." Indeed, it's been an inspiring and fulfilling experience to observe the regular and continuous emergence of new and younger voices in my chosen field, including of course the contributors and editors of *In geveb*. So, thank you, AJL, and thank you, *In geveb*, for your encouragement and support!

Chapter Chatter

AJL SOUTH CALIFORNIA (AJLSC)

SUBMITTED BY ELLEN COLE

Kudos go to AJLSC members Jackie Ben Efraim, Emily Bergman, and Kathy Bloomfield who received our chapter's scholarship to AJL's June Boston Conference.

Our chapter's scholarship committee, Roberta Lloyd, Chair, Lesley Alexander-Roxas and Ronda Rose noted their hard work for our chapter and for national.

A gala dinner at the Sperber Jewish Community Library kicked off our initial planning meeting for next year's AJL conference, returning to Los Angeles for the fourth time (past includes Long Beach, West LA and Pasadena). Two of our members who will lead local conference plans entertained with a funny,

peppy original song to get us in the mood. Discussions on theme, location, travel, community Jewish attractions, restaurants and program ideas made for lively back and forth.

Don't forget to connect to [AJLSC on Facebook](#) and 'like' us! For other news, visit our fabulous chapter website. We are current and interesting!



Dorothy Schroeder Committee Members & Grant Winners

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:

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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 September 21, 2018.

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

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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

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