

## The Jüdische Kulturbund Project Visits AJL/CAC

BY YERMIYAHU AHRON TAUB

On Sunday, March 10, 2019, Gail Prensky, the director and creator of the Jüdische Kulturbund Project (JKP) gave a lecture and audio-visual presentation on the organization's history, achievements, and goals to the Association of Jewish Libraries/Capital Area Chapter (AJL/CAC). Mark Haney, associate producer and associate project director, was also in attendance at the event.

The Jüdische Kulturbund (JK) was formed in 1933 when Jewish musicians were fired from their jobs following Hitler's rise to power. A group of artists, led by Kurt Singer, the former Director at the opera house in Berlin, submitted a proposal to form a Jewish musical ensemble to Joseph Goebbels, Reich Minister of Propaganda. The proposal was accepted. The group's first production was of Lessing's *Nathan the Wise*, which the Nazis closed down on the first night. The JK hired around 2000 artists and their membership swelled to about 70,000 people. At its height in 1937, there were 18,500 members in the Berlin Kulturbund, more than 10% of Berlin's Jewish population. Most of the chapters closed after Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass, November 9-10, 1938). No recordings of their concerts were permitted, and two Nazi guards were on duty throughout each performance. A New York Times reporter attended one of the concerts, serving to further Nazi propaganda that all was well for the Jews of Germany. Ms. Prensky likened the situation of the Jews in Germany to the proverbial "frog in the boiling water," where the temperature water is only gradually raised so that the frog doesn't notice things are that bad or even take notice ... until it eventually dies.

The JKP has taken the example of this resilient group of artists and brought their histories and life lessons into the current day. In the early 2000's, the JKP conducted fifteen interviews on this history. Interviewees included dancers, a seamstress, and a student who attended a JK production of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. In 2013, they brought together actors and musicians for a three-day workshop of improvisational exercises.

Currently, the JKP has a number of exciting projects under development. A JKP exhibition entitled *Artivists: Art Against Oppression* is currently being planned at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.



Gail Prensky (L) and Mark Haney (R)  
Photo credit: Yermiyahu Ahron Taub

### 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.

The exhibition will explore artists and musicians living under oppression and how they respond with their art. Another upcoming project is "Bullets to Books," which will feature a speaking tour across the United States by Jok Abraham Thon, founder of The Promised Land Secondary School in South Sudan. Jok is working to replace the school's temporary structure with a permanent one. More broadly, he is working to heal the country's deep wounds by working to combat illiteracy and fostering self and communal empowerment. The US State Department approved the US Embassy in Juba's request to bring four members of the JKP to South Sudan as part of the Arts Envoy Program. Their plan is to go June 1, 2019 for twelve days. They will begin filming their documentary, *Bullets to Books*, lead education workshops, meet with NGOs to raise interest, and present the design plans for the new building for Promised Land Secondary School. Another JKP project in the works is a motion picture based on Kurt Singer's life.

The Jüdische Kulturbund Project blends Jewish historical awareness with contemporary artistic and social justice activism. Using the experiences of The Jüdische Kulturbund as both a starting point and a point of constant return, the Project brings the experiences of twentieth-century Jewish artists to artists today living under conditions of oppression. Each informs the other in a manner that honors both by retaining their cultural specificity. The Project also brings Jewish history to audiences who might not have heard anything about it, creating a conversation across time and cultures.

AJL/CAC thanks Gail Prensky for her engaging lecture and vital work, Gail Shirazi for organizing and hosting the event, and Nahid Gerstein for her work on the event.

For more information on the Jüdische Kulturbund Project, please visit [judischekulturbund.com](http://judischekulturbund.com)

## Chapter Chatter

### JEWISH LIBRARIAN NETWORK OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO (JLNMC)

SUBMITTED BY LEAH COHEN, PRESIDENT

On March 7, 2019, the Jewish Librarian Network of Metropolitan Chicago (JLNMC) visited the Melville J. Herskovitz Library of African Studies at Northwestern University. Herskovitz, an anthropologist, had studied under a pioneering father of the field, Franz Boas. He had carried out research in Africa and established this library. As the curator of the collection, Esmeralde Kale put it, their goal is to show the beauty and diversity of Africa; indeed, we saw this when we were taken on a tour of one of the vaults.



The scope is not only that of printed items (books, posters, leaflets) as one might expect, but ephemera in the broadest sense. This includes cloth (we were shown a cloth from an unknown country with pictures of Winston Churchill), lanyards and other objects supporting a political candidates in an election, drums, traditional or non-traditional beadwork, a mural-like painting of Nelson Mandela before his imprisonment (wearing traditional warrior garb), drums, and traditional baskets. The library is open to the public and there is outreach to schools.

In addition to our fascinating tour in the vault, Esmeralda Kale and Shoshanah Seidman, the metadata librarian, prepared a diverse display of Judaica published in or about Jews in Africa on two large tables. These included histories of the Jews in the Maghreb, a Canadian report on the state of Jews in Ethiopia prior to Operation Moses. Books from South Africa ranged from *The Jews of KwaZulu-Natal: A History*, and



those documenting Jewish involvement in the anti-apartheid movement. One of the rare books, "*Sefer ha-ma'atsar v'eha-galut: shalosh shanim le-galutenu*" [*The Book of Our Imprisonment and our Exile: Three Years of our Exile*] was printed in Kenya in 1948, by Jews whose attempt to make Aliya had been thwarted by the British Mandate and imprisoned them in Kenya.

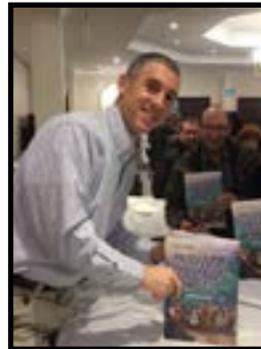
We were also pleased that the tour attracted some researchers and some newly graduated librarians in addition to the regulars.

## AJL ONTARIO

[AJLONTARIO.ORG](http://AJLONTARIO.ORG)

SUBMITTED BY ANNE DUBLIN

On February 23, 2019, AJL-Ontario co-sponsored a panel discussion, "Jews and Comics: People of the Comic Book". The program took place at the Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue in Thornhill, Ontario. The participants were Steven Bergson, Jordan B. Gorfinkel (Gorf), and Gerald Hartman. The audience listened with rapt attention to the panelists as they talked about comic books during World War II, the world of comics in the Jewish Orthodox community, and Gorf's Passover Haggadah Graphic Novel, illustrated by Israeli artist, Erez Zadok.



Jordan B. Gorfinkel



Steven Bergson

## AJL Scholarship Donation Form (Instructions on following page)

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# 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](mailto:sarmarbar68@gmail.com))

5646 Hunters Lake

Cincinnati, OH 45249

## Preliminary Conference Schedule - Sunday and Monday

### Sunday, June 16

3:00-5:00 p.m.	Board Meeting	<b>Salon AB</b>
5:45-8:00 p.m.	Council Meeting (includes dinner)	<b>Salon AB</b>

### Monday, June 17

	REGISTRATION			<i>Grand Foyer</i>
8:30-10:15 a.m.	Accreditation Committee <b>Salon CD</b>		Bibliographer's Meeting <b>Salon GH</b>	
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Judaica Librarianship Board <b>Salon AB</b>	Newcomers Welcome <b>Salon CD</b>	RAS Cataloging Committee <b>Salon GH</b>	Sydney Taylor Book Awards Committee <b>Salon IJ</b>
	EXHIBITS			<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
12:30-1:30 p.m.	LUNCH			<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
<b>Rooms</b>	<b>1A Salon AB</b>	<b>1B Salon CD</b>	<b>1C Salon GH</b>	<b>1D Salon IJ</b>
2:00-3:30 p.m.	Archives/Collections	Lithuania	New Israeli Literature in Translation	Youth Literature and Teaching
<b>Rooms</b>	<b>2A Salon AB</b>	<b>2B Salon CD</b>	<b>2C Salon GH</b>	<b>2D Salon IJ</b>
3:45-5:15 p.m.	Genealogy	Jewish Music Research Across Archives and Libraries	Looking at International Youth Literature	SSC Libraries
<b>Rooms</b>	<b>3A Salon AB</b>	<b>3B Salon CD</b>	<b>3C Salon GH</b>	<b>3D Salon IJ</b>
5:30-6:30 p.m.	Shoah Foundation Archives and Data	Remembering the Past and Preserving for the Future	Live Podcast	Digital Resources Workshop
6:30 p.m.-?	<b>Dinner on Your Own</b>			
8:00 p.m.	Russel Neiss: Bonus Session			

# Preliminary Conference Schedule - Tuesday and Wednesday

## Tuesday, June 18

7:30-8:45 a.m.	<b>BREAKFAST</b>			<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	<i>Grand Foyer</i>	<b>EXHIBITS</b>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
<b>Rooms</b>	<b>4A</b> <i>Salon AB</i>	<b>4B</b> <i>Salon CD</i>	<b>4C</b> <i>Salon GH</i>	<b>4D</b> <i>Salon IJ</i>
9:00-10:30 a.m.	Holocaust/Collections	Digitization	Best New Fiction for Adult Readers	Information Literacy
10:45-11:30 a.m.	<b>RAS Meeting</b> <i>Salon AB</i>		<b>SSC Meeting</b>	<i>Salon GH</i>
11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	<b>General Membership Meeting</b>			<i>Salon AB</i>
12:30-2:30 p.m.	<b>AUTHOR LUNCH</b> Keynote Speaker: Eugene Yelchin			<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
	<b>EXHIBITS</b>			<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
<b>Rooms</b>	<b>5A</b> <i>Salon AB</i>	<b>5B</b> <i>Salon CD</i>	<b>5C</b> <i>Salon GH</i>	
2:45-4:15 p.m.	LC Cataloging Update	Jewish Text Study and Rituals	Meet the Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners	
<b>Rooms</b>	<b>6A</b> <i>Salon AB</i>	<b>6B</b> <i>Salon CD</i>	<b>6C</b> <i>Salon GH</i>	<b>6D</b> <i>Salon IJ</i>
4:30-6:00 p.m.	Collections from Near and Far	Important Persons and Their Collections	A Presentation by Members of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee	Persian Literature and Publishing
6:15-8:00 p.m.	<b>AWARDS DINNER</b>			<i>Grand Ballroom</i>

## Wednesday, June 19

7:30-8:45 a.m.	<b>BREAKFAST</b>			<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
	AJL Fiction Award Committee hosts an informal discussion of the 2019 award winner, <i>Memento Park</i> , at 8:00 a.m. in the ballroom			
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	<i>Grand Foyer</i>	<b>EXHIBITS</b>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
<b>Rooms</b>	<b>7A</b> <i>Salon AB</i>	<b>7B</b> <i>Salon CD</i>	<b>7C</b> <i>Salon GH</i>	<b>7D</b> <i>Salon IJ</i>
9:00-10:30 a.m.	Bible Collections	General Interest	SSC Roundtable	Cataloging
10:30-11:00 a.m.	<b>Board buses to AJU</b>			
<b>Tours</b>	<b>8A</b>	<b>8B</b>	<b>8C</b>	<b>8D</b>
11:45 a.m.-12:30 pm	Tour starting in Ostrow & Sperber Library	Tour starting in Sculpture Garden	Tour starting in Rare Book Room	Tour starting in Mikveh
12:30-2:15 p.m.	<b>LUNCH</b>			<i>AJU</i>
	<b>Feinstein Lecture: Todd Presner</b> <b>Fanny Goldstein Award</b>			
2:30-5:30 p.m.	<b>Tours (TBA)</b>			
6:30 p.m.	<b>Conference Recap (for conference planners)</b>			

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**Session 1A**  
Archives/Collections

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**The History and Contents of the Sholem Asch Collection of Judaica at the Yale University Library**

***Nanette Stahl***

This paper will discuss the history of how the collection came to Yale and give a PowerPoint screening of some of the rare books and manuscripts contained in it.

**German-Jewish Exiles in Los Angeles: Promoting the Legacy of Lion Feuchtwanger and Jewish Emigres at USC in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

***Marje Schuetze-Coburn and Michaela Ullman***

The Feuchtwanger Memorial Library (FML) at USC has a long history and documents the legacy of novelist Lion Feuchtwanger and other Jewish and German-speaking exiles in Los Angeles. The collection is not only heavily used by local and international researchers, but has also seen a steady increase in its use by students, thanks to newly developed instruction and outreach efforts. In the first part of the presentation, Marje Schuetze-Coburn will discuss Feuchtwanger's path into exile, shine light on this rich archival and rare book collection and cover the fate of his three libraries, including his final library now held at USC and Villa Aurora. Schuetze-Coburn will also discuss the FML's role to develop USC Libraries' strong focus on Exile Studies as well as Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

In the second part of the presentation, Michaela Ullmann will talk about the relevance of the collection for teaching and learning at USC. She will present case studies from a variety of classes she has worked with to document how she brings students into contact with these rich historical resources using hands-on active learning assignments and digital humanities projects. Finally, Ullmann will review a variety of outreach efforts that she and Schuetze-Coburn have conducted to actively engage USC's students and faculty with the FML and other Exile Studies-related collections at USC.

**Poetic Expression in the Autobiographies of Jewish Youth Before the Holocaust**

***Migle Anusauskaite***

In 1932, 1934 and 1939, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, at the time based in Vilnius, announced a series of competitions for Jews aged 16-22. The participants were asked to send in their autobiographies or diaries. Many of these, together with other books and documents, were plundered by Nazis and brought to Germany. After the war, they were given to YIVO Institute in New York. Some of them were translated and published.

Recently, among the documents that were hidden during the war and preserved in the National Library of Lithuania, around fifty additional diaries and autobiographies were found. Migle will address these items, among them, a diary of famous historiographer of Vilnius Leyzer Ran (1912-1995). While writing about their everyday lives, opinions and dreams, some of the young people include poems that they have themselves written. This poetry, though amateurish, is nevertheless a testament of the inner lives of these young people.

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**Session 1B**  
Lithuania

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**Lost and Found: Traces of Lithuanian Jewish Cultural Dialog*****Lara Lempert***

In the middle of the 1930s in independent Lithuania, representatives of Lithuanian and Jewish intelligentsia and professionals began to develop mutual interest and initiated a number of common educational and cultural projects. This process was brutally terminated by the Holocaust, and its documentation and representations are rare and precious. This paper will present main tendencies of those intercultural contacts as they are seen through documents from Lithuania's depositories.

**Abba Balosher's Library as a Model of Pre-War Lithuanian Institutions*****Olga Potap***

In pre-World War II Kaunas, Abba Balosher (1869-1944), an intellectual and a scholar, managed a private library and distributed books in eight languages. He kept contacts with many book dealers and publishing houses overseas which make his library unique and expendable. The spirit of Balosher's library has matched the sense of the independent Lithuanian democratic society – intellectual and open-minded, not limited by languages and geographical borders.

Efforts were made to save Balosher's library during the Nazi occupation. More than 9,000 volumes were sent to the National Library of Lithuania. However, the most valuable Hebrew books and manuscripts were prepared for transport to Germany, while the rest of Yiddish and Hebrew books were burned or sent to the paper mill. Until last year, the librarians at the National Library of Lithuania and Balosher's relatives were confident that all Jewish books from Balosher's library were destroyed during the Nazi occupation. In 2017, the librarians at the National Library of Lithuania found a collection of Yiddish and Hebrew books in some storage facilities. The presentation will provide information about this finding and will also emphasize the attempts taken by the Lithuanian intellectuals to save the Jewish library.

**Literary Offerings of Jewish Public Libraries in Interwar Poland*****Monika Biesaga***

Nowadays, when many Jewish book collections and libraries from the interwar period no longer exist, printed catalogues are the only remaining sources which enable us to reconstruct their contents and make it possible to study reading preferences of their founders, owners and users. In her presentation, Monika will analyze the content of a few survived printed catalogues of Jewish public libraries in Poland and present the literary offer they had for a Jewish reader.

**Vilnius: In Search of Traces of the Jerusalem of Lithuania*****Vadim Sapozhnikov***

Mr. Sapozhnikov will discuss the complexities of translating a soon to be published English translation of a book that includes 23 pedestrian routes around the city of Vilnius and its suburbs tracing the often-tragic history of local Jewish community. These challenges are comparable to many of the issues librarians face when cataloging resources in multiple languages.

Some of the challenges faced in creating this translation were the multitude of sources in a variety of languages - old documents, governmental archives, photographs, advertisements, ticket stubs, lithographic prints and architectural drawings. Relatively recently declassified Soviet archive

documents, as well as the sizeable portion of the book that deals with the Holocaust in excruciating detail, placed additional psychological demands and responsibility on the translator.

In addition, Vilnius has undergone several political changes throughout its history which often changed the official language. In order to be useful, it was important for this volume to strictly adhere to names used by the official language at a specific time in history.

### Session 1C

#### New Israeli Literature in Translation

### Lost (and Found) in Translation: New Israeli Literature in English

#### **Rachel Kamin**

It is an established fact in the literary world that Americans just aren't that motivated to read fiction in translation. Only three percent of all books published in the United States each year are in translation, but the small number of books being translated from Hebrew has been steadily increasing. Rachel will discuss some of these new books that are now available to those of us who are not quite fluent enough to read them in their original Hebrew, as well as trends in Israeli literature and books written in English by native Hebrew speakers.

### Rachel and Yalta: New Perspectives on Talmudic Women

#### **Tamar Duvdevani**

Discussed during this talk will be two relatively new Israeli novels, portraying female Talmudic characters:

- Yochi Brandes's *Ha-Pardes Shel Akiva* (translated into English as: *The Orchard*)
- Ruhama Weiss's *Yalta* (currently in the process of being translated into English)

These books, written from the point of view of the female main characters, flesh out these Talmudic personalities, giving them a voice and a back story, adding depth to the Talmudic text. The books offer a new interpretation of Talmudic literature, focusing on the experiences of women and making them the heroes not only of their own story, but also of the Jewish people.

### Session 1D

#### Youth Literature and Teaching

### Teaching the Holocaust through the Arts

#### **Leora Raikin**

The purpose of the David Labkovski Project is to educate through the art of David Labkovski. By engaging viewers with his paintings and sketches, students learn lessons of life, survival, tolerance, acceptance, and the importance of bearing witness to history. Ms. Raikin will provide examples of how Holocaust materials, either those of David Labkovski, or items already in Judaica libraries, can be used to inspire middle and high school students to produce their own works of art or creative writing to then share with their local community or online.

### Oy Vey and Excelsior! Jewish Representation and Moral Lessons in Graphic Novels and Comics

#### **Eli Lieberman**

This presentation will focus on graphic novels and comic books with characters who are identifiably Jewish. Mr. Lieberman will discuss how Haredi and other such groups utilize comic books and graphic novels to impart religious and moral lessons, as well as providing an alternative to secular comic books and culture. With the recent passing of Stan Lee, co-creator of many of

the most well-known superheroes and superhero teams for Marvel Comics, there has been an increased focus on the history and use of graphic novels and comics in the general culture. Examples of Jewish characters in these materials include Shaloman by Al Weisner, as well as characters from the Marvel Comics universe who have markedly Jewish identities, such as Ben Grimm aka The Thing, Kitty Pryde aka Shadowcat, Magneto, and others. The benefits of collecting this genre, especially for adolescents, in Jewish school libraries will also be discussed.

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## Session 2A

### Genealogy

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### **Documenting the Vilna Ghetto Library**

#### ***Judy Baston***

Vilna – known as the Jerusalem of Lithuania – had a strong cultural tradition before the Shoah that flourished even after the Vilna Ghetto was established in 1941. One of the most important cultural institutions in the Ghetto was the Vilna Ghetto Library. In many ways, The Vilna Ghetto was unique – it was the only ghetto with a central, officially sanctioned library that functioned during the Shoah.

Documentation from the Vilna Ghetto Library has survived and includes lists of readers in the Library, lists of workers in the Library and even a list of readers who did not return books to the Library. Most of these lists are in the Lithuanian State Central Archive (LCVA) in Vilnius. One such list, “List of Readers with a Subscription to the Vilna Ghetto Library, Arranged in Alphabetical Order,” includes names and addresses of 4,401 Vilna Ghetto residents. This list is now publicly searchable by surname at <https://www.litvaksig.org/all-lithuania-database>.

Although none of the lists of Vilna Ghetto Library patrons appear to include the names of the particular books that specific patrons took out of the Library, several documents from Vilna Ghetto librarians provide insight into which kinds of books were preferred by which sorts of Ghetto patrons.

### **Genealogical Resources in Yeshiva University’s Special Collection**

#### ***Shuli Berger***

This illustrated lecture will provide an overview of archival collections and manuscripts held by Yeshiva University Library’s Special Collections relating to German, Hungarian and American genealogical primary research sources, dating primarily from the mid-eighteenth through the early twentieth centuries. The lecture will also include background information on the collections as well as specific examples of items in the collections. There will be a brief explanation of how to locate genealogical resources in the Yeshiva University’s online catalog and archival finding aids.

### **Genealogical Research: In Memory There is Redemption" (Bi’Zikranot yesh ha-geulah) Bringing to Light Family Genealogical Research as a Redemptive Journey**

#### ***David Levy***

This genealogical research describes the methods and strategies to uncover past history of various members of the Gluskin family back thirteen generations and place this account in its historical context, as well as the importance of genealogical research. As well as the uncovering of an elite rabbinic history, this study brings to center stage from the margins material on matriarchal histories. The testimony is peppered with primary sources including interviews, photos, genealogical trees, letters, Hespadim, Hashkamot, pinkasim, maps, the historic Jewish press and current Israeli newspapers, memoirs, public records, oral histories, tombstone

inscriptions, family photos, original poems by family members, and demographic studies. Many secondary sources such as *Eleh Ezkarah*, *Minsk yizkor books*, academic articles, etc. are drawn upon. The research notes some individuals who made major impacts in their Jewish community, Judaism, cultural history at large, Zionism and life in Israel for those fortunate to get out of the Soviet Union in Zionist Aliyah to Eretz Yisrael. We trace censorship and persecution under Communist Russia and how this affected family under the surveillance of the KGB. The work reveals the *misirat nefesh* of those who sacrificed as a form of *Kiddush ha-Shem*, in trying times. The work implores us to aspire to live by the light of the examples of these noble ancestors whose holy souls sparks shine as glistening "names" in Gan Eden. We cannot know where we are going unless we know "where we have walked" in generations before us. The book is an attempt to turn to the past to guide us into the future, to make us better persons, seeking wisdom from the elders, as parasha Hazinu enjoins: שָׂאֵל אֲבִיךָ וַיְגַדֶּךָ, זְקַנְיֶיךָ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָךְ זָכֹר יְמֹת עוֹלָם, בִּיְנוֹ שָׁנוֹת דֹּר-וָדוֹר;

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## Session 2B

### Jewish Music Research Across Archives and Libraries

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#### **From Mickey to Lowell: Creation of a Center for the Study and Preservation of Jewish Music**

***Sharon Benamou, Mark Kligman, Matthew Vest***

In 2014, Dr. Mark Kligman was hired as the first Mickey Katz Endowed Chair in Jewish Music at UCLA. This has attracted students to UCLA as a center for Jewish music scholarship. The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music received a gift to establish the Lowell Milken Fund for American Jewish Music in order to give attention to American Jewish music as an area of research and study. The UCLA Libraries are coordinating with the archive and across units to develop a shared collection development plan, programming and research.

#### **Just Like a Dream: Finding Jennie Goldstein's Voice in the Archives**

***Amanda Seigel***

With her distinctive voice and style, the Yiddish actress, singer, and lyricist Jennie Goldstein (1896-1961) performed, recorded and published dozens of songs during her nearly sixty-year career. Goldstein's musical output reflects the multiple roles she played, on and off-stage, and the changing cultural landscape of (Yiddish) America. What research methods can we use to discover musical (and other) sources from Goldstein's work?

#### **The Struggle is Reel: Jewish Cassettes in the Recorded Sound Archive at Florida Atlantic University**

***Daniel Scheide***

Home taping couldn't kill music when there were halakhic warnings on the insert. As audio cassettes are making a comeback, the Recorded Sound Archive at FAU is preserving and cataloging recordings found nowhere else, unearthing hidden gems not available in other formats. Orthodox pop parodies, Israeli pre-Eurovision Contest collections and cantorial rarities are among the highlights presented by Daniel Scheide in his inimitable style.

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**Session 2C**Looking at International Youth Literature

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**Literature or Propaganda? How They Write About the Arab Israeli Conflict*****Marjorie Gann***

Despite its complexity, the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict is a surprisingly popular theme in contemporary children's fiction and fictionalized memoirs. This presentation will focus on books written in English by American, Canadian and British authors, as well as on translations from Hebrew and from bilingual Arabic-Hebrew picture books from Israel. It will examine this literature from both political and literary perspectives, comparing how authors from different interest groups present the history and lives of Jews and Arabs in Israel and the West Bank. Drawing on personal interviews with several authors, Marjorie will explore their goals in addressing this highly controversial topic in books for young readers. This paper will also examine the sources authors consulted or ignored in their research into the daily lives of the residents of Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. Marjorie will situate this wave of political literature within a comparative context, comparing these books with classics of the American Civil Rights Movement. Finally, she will explore the literary quality of these highly political books. The discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of these novels should help school and synagogue librarians choose appropriate novels on the Middle East conflict for middle grade and high school students.

**What's New in Award-Winning Translated Children's Books with Jewish Content*****Annette Goldsmith***

At the 2012 AJL Conference, Annette identified and discussed children's books with significant Jewish content among winners of the two most important U.S. awards for translated books for youth, the Mildred L. Batchelder Award and the Outstanding International Books List. In the last few years there has been increased activity in publishing and promoting translations, including the appearance of the Global Literature in Libraries Initiative (GLLI), a group of translators, librarians, teachers, etc. that provides librarians with collection development information and programming ideas for world literature. In 2018, GLLI introduced a new award, the Translated YA Book Prize - another award to check for Jewish content. With the findings from her 2012 session as a point of departure, Annette will provide an update on the children's literature translation scene today, drawing on her dissertation research into decision making by children's book editors in choosing books from other countries to translate into English for the U.S. market. She will identify award-winning translations with significant Jewish content published from 2013-2018 and facilitate hands-on activities for using them.

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**Session 2D**SSC Libraries

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**Managing the Synagogue Library*****Susan Kusel***

Being a synagogue librarian can often mean wearing many hats: reference librarian, materials selector, OPAC manager, cataloger, volunteer coordinator and even shelver. Multiple synagogue librarians will talk about all these aspects of their jobs and how they manage their libraries. Other issues essential to synagogue library management will be discussed including processing book donations, selecting OPACs, and running book clubs and storytimes.

## **Using Synagogue and Library Archival Material for Outreach and Fundraising**

***Amalia Levi***

Synagogues and libraries usually hold a wealth of archival material that can be promoted and used to enhance programming, education, outreach and fundraising activities. At the same time, considering budget and staff cuts in smaller institutions, it can also promote and emphasize the value of librarians and archivists for their boards and communities. This presentation will show you different practical ways to put your institution's archival collections to use, create community around them, and increase your institution's outreach capabilities. Learn of various methods and tools, available for free or low cost, to help you showcase your institution's collections and use them for public outreach. Such tools can vary in complexity from ones that require no, or very little, technical skills to more advanced digital sophistication.

## **Workshop Using "OMEKA" for Collection Digitization**

***Amalia Levi***

Participants in this workshop will be introduced to *Omeka*, a free tool that allows individuals and institutions to build a content management system for their collections and display them on the web. Omeka is extensible and can be adapted to fit the needs of your institution. Participants in this workshop will have the chance to try out the tool and build a small exhibit. Requirements: Wi-fi enabled laptop. Bring your own digitized items or use the ones provided.

### **Session 3A**

Shoah Foundation Archives and Data

## **Indexing and Searching Testimony in USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive**

***Sandra Joy Aguilar***

In this hands-on demo, Sandra will show conference attendees the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive database which contains more than 50,000 testimonies of survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides. She will also demonstrate how the database is accessed by ProQuest subscribers at academic institutions worldwide and the special research features of that interface.

## **Spreadsheet Madness: Mapping Data from the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive to MARC**

***Daryn Eller***

The 50,000-plus audiovisual testimonies in the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive each have significant metadata, but it is organized in ways unique to the Institute and not compatible with Library of Congress standards. When tasked with creating library records for the archive, the challenge was to not only map the individualized data behind each testimony to MARC, but - since viewing each testimony for content would be impossible - to come up with uniform subject headings and summaries that could be used across experience groups. The presentation will take conference attendees through the process, familiarize them with the tools used, and explain how it was attempted to make the records less generic by adding geographical terms specific to each testimony. Also covered will be the additional challenge of getting the MARC records into USC's Primo/Alma catalog and the collaboration with USC librarians. Is it a good idea to create such generic records? Will it help researchers find useful resources or clutter up their searches?

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**Session 3B**

 Remembering the Past and Preserving for the Future
 

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**Vienna University Library's Collection of Old Hebrew Prints**
***Monika Schreiber***

Vienna University Library owns a collection of roughly 1,200 Old Hebrew prints, produced and circulated all over Europe over a period of more than 400 years, starting with the late fifteenth century. All of them have comprehensive bibliographic and item records in ALMA, which are in the process of being incorporated into "Footprints," a database on Jewish book history managed at Columbia University. Using showcase examples from the Vienna collection, this talk will address the subject of early modern academic collection building in the fields of Hebrew, the Bible and Judaism. The earlier Jewish and Christian repositories consolidated in the Vienna collection will be discussed in connection with questions concerning the work of Christian Hebraists who edited and authored books in Hebrew. The second part of the presentation will describe the digital processing of the ALMA records required for their inclusion into the "Footprints" database and the creation of a linked data graph designed to support research questions formulated using a digital humanities approach.

**Dr. Lou Shub: A Pioneer Judaica Librarian in Sunny Southern California**
***Haim Gottschalk***

Dr. Lou Shub was the first director of the library at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, CA. He was also a pioneer in Judaica librarianship in Southern California. This presentation will present the life of Dr. Lou Shub and highlight his accomplishments in developing the collection at the University of Judaism (now American Jewish University) and his contributions to librarianship in general.

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**Session 3C**

 Live Podcast
 

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**The Book of Life Live Show: "Boys and Girls or Monkeys and Raccoons?"**
***Heidi Rabinowitz and Joni Sussman***

Podcast live shows are all the rage these days! In this session, join host Heidi Rabinowitz as she creates a podcast episode for The Book of Life before your very eyes. Guest Joni Sussman of Kar-Ben Publishing and author/illustrator Barney Saltzberg will discuss how they decide on an "art profile" for picture books - i.e. whether to use humans or animals, the ethnic diversity of the characters, any special needs portrayed, etc. Audience participation will be encouraged.

Since 2005, The Book of Life has been interviewing creators of Jewish books, music, film and websites. The Book of Life is closely affiliated with AJL. Many interviews take place during the annual conference, and the podcast has a tradition of offering exclusive interviews with the Sydney Taylor Book Award committee chair to reveal the winning titles. In this session, attendees will learn a little history about the show and record a live interview that will ultimately become an episode online.

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**Session 3D**  
Digital Resources Workshop

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**Choose Your Own Torah Adventure with Sefaria*****Russel Neiss***

Sefaria is deeply committed to the democratization of Jewish knowledge and helping individuals access Jewish resources in order to help promote Jewish literacy. The digitized texts and links are equally beloved by teachers and librarians in Jewish supplemental and day schools, and those engaged in text-centered Jewish digital humanities projects. In this hands-on session, participants will get a chance to play and explore Sefaria's core library along with some of its lesser known functions and features including visualizations, lexicons, contextualized topics, and other third party tools designed using API and texts. Participants will leave the session being proficient users of Sefaria and will emerge having begun the process of creating materials to use in their work.

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**Session 3E**  
Bonus Session

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**“Twitter Workshop”: Build Your Own Digital Humanities Twitter Bot {no coding experience required}*****Russel Neiss and Michelle Chesner***

You may have heard about those "twitter bots" that are to blame for sowing discord and false information during the 2016 election. They're small automated programs that usually spam users or scrape data from pages, and engage in other nefarious activities. But did you know that there are many creative bots that help contribute to the broader culture of the internet, digital humanities, and yes, even Jewish librarianship? Join us at this informal gathering with a link to your favorite digital Judaica collection, and leave (hopefully) having created a twitter bot that showcases it to the world.

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**Session 4A**  
Holocaust/Collections

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**Using Yad Vashem's Databases in Reconstructing Life Histories of Holocaust Victims*****Lital Beer***

Since its very beginning, Yad Vashem has been collecting documentation about the Holocaust from various sources and in a variety of topics, original or copy. A main goal has been the documentation and commemoration of the individual victims, "unto every person there is a name", as embodied in the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names.

Recent years have brought about great technological advantages in giving access to the vast collections. Documents and photos have been cataloged, scanned and made available to the public through online databases. These different sources can be researched and assist in reconstructing individual life stories of victims. In this presentation, Lital will give examples of how different sources available at Yad Vashem can create a puzzle, from which a narrative of a person's story can emerge.

## **Zamlung: Acquisition, Outreach and Community Engagement in the Post-Survivor Era**

***Yedida Kanfer***

In recent years, the responsibility for maintaining Holocaust collections has shifted from survivors themselves to the librarians and archivists who preserve their stories. As the post-survivor era draws near, how do we continue to maintain user interest in Holocaust collections? This session proposes that wider communities must have a stake in the collections that until now have been supported and donated by Holocaust survivors. Drawing from the most recent literature on community archives, this session explores the meaning of 'community' and the extent to which the concept has shifted over time. It argues that strategic 'zamlung' (what we might term 'acquisition') allows archivists to create invested communities that will sustain institutions and the collections within them. The JFCS Holocaust Center has focused its outreach on Jewish communities (eg. the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, religious school students) as well as diverse, non-Jewish communities within the Bay Area. This session will end with hands-on examples of how the JFCS Holocaust Center has engaged its growing community via social media, web exhibits, and blog posts.

## **Cataloging and Digitization of the Archives of the Szeged (Hungary) Jewish Community: A Central European Case Study**

***Dora Pataricza and Kathy Glatter***

Szeged is the third biggest city in Hungary and was a focal point of Neolog Judaism. The archive's spectrum contains official and private documents from a time span of two hundred years. In a two-year project, 82 linear feet of the Szeged Jewish Community are digitized and indexed. The archives contain the plans of the world-famous Szeged Synagogue (1907), paintings, and liturgical textiles. These are highly endangered and irreplaceable records that need to be preserved and made internationally researchable. Additionally, the Archive has created a large integrative database from historical and genealogical sites including the 1944 original Holocaust deportation list, plus 1,700 survivors who returned to Szeged in 1945-1946, sources from Yad Vashem, and the archival records. Electronic resources are used to locate maiden names of female Holocaust victims from their Hungarian marriage licenses. This innovative library project provides a comprehensive overview spanning decades recording the Szeged Jewish community.

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### **Session 4B** Digitization

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## **Digitization of the Cummings Collection of Judaica and Hebraica at UCLA**

***Stephanie Geller***

This presentation introduces the Cummings Collection of Judaica and Hebraica, part of the UCLA libraries, and the current project to digitize its particularly damaged and fragile volumes. The history of the collection, as well as some facts/figures about the collection and the digitization project will be discussed. The digitization decision tree and workflow will also be shared, followed by the decision to upload to the Hathi Trust and technical requirements for working with them. Finally, some of the difficulties of using OCR with Hebrew characters and on books with a number of conservation concerns will be shared.

## **Digitizing 140,000 Pages of Yiddish Linguistics: Strategies and Lessons Learned**

***Michelle Chesner***

In 2016, the National Endowment for the Humanities granted Columbia University Libraries funding to digitize and make available c.140,000 pages of field notes from the Language and

Culture Atlas of Ashkenazic Jewry. The two-year project involved extensive collaboration, both within and outside the university, and required new ideas and strategies for digitizing a large quantity of archival materials for patron use. This talk will discuss some of the strategies, challenges, and creative thinking and work that was required to take the idea into reality.

### **UCLA's Sephardic Archive Initiative: Community Engagement, University Libraries and Building a Digital Presence**

**Max Daniel**

This presentation will provide an overview of the Sephardic Archive Initiative at UCLA, with an aim of introducing this project to a wider audience of Judaica librarians and exploring issues related to university, library and community relationships. It also seeks to provide insight into the unique challenges and opportunities around collecting and accessing Sephardic materials. Specifically, the presentation will cover a few main topics: the initiative's acquisitions, especially the archives of Los Angeles' Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel; community engagement efforts including the March 2018 event, "Save the Data: Sephardic Antiques Roadshow" and an upcoming centennial commemoration of the community; and the building of a digital platform for the initiative.

### **Session 4C**

#### **Best New Fiction for Adult Readers**

### **The Best New Fiction for Adult Readers: A Presentation by the AJL Jewish Fiction Award Committee**

**Yermiyahu Ahron Taub, Rachel Kamin, Rosalind Reisner**

Over 100 works of fiction with Jewish content are published each year by mainstream, Jewish and small, independent presses. So many books, so little time! How do we sift through the good, the great and the not-so-great? How can reading books with Jewish characters and themes help educate, enlighten and inspire us? What are the new trends in the Jewish publishing world? Explore the latest and greatest in Jewish fiction for adult readers with the members of the AJL Fiction Award Committee and come prepared to share some of your favorite new titles. Our special guests will be the 2019 award winners: Mark Sarvas, author of *Memento Park* and Scott Nadelson, author of *The Fourth Corner of the World*.

### **Session 4D**

#### **Information Literacy**

### **Hands-On Resources of the JDC Archives for High School Librarians and Students**

**Linda Levi**

The JDC Archives is an unparalleled repository of modern Jewish history. Its vast holdings document JDC's global humanitarian mission, activities, and partnerships from World War I to the present and are a unique window into Jewish communal relief, development, migration, and resettlement in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries in over 90 countries. The JDC Archives is a treasure trove for those researching their Jewish family history and for students of Jewish history. The JDC Archives website ([archives.jdc.org](http://archives.jdc.org)) includes a database for digitized collections, an interactive timeline, topic guides for educators, and a names index.

This presentation will highlight JDC Archives resources, with a focus on material of interest to high school librarians including:

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- JDC Archives website and Our Stories feature
- JDC Archives Names Index and resources for family history projects
- How to access our historic Film Collection, including screening of a film clip
- JDC Archives Photo Collection
- Online exhibits
- Education resources on The Story of the St. Louis, Refuge in Shanghai, JDC and the Displaced Persons Camps, etc.

### **Scrutinizing Bias and Searching for Accuracy: Information Literacy Instruction Interventions for Jewish Studies Students**

*Lynn Lampert and Michele Paskow*

Faculty from California State University Northridge (CSUN) will discuss the methods and assignments employed to teach a diverse group of undergraduate students to develop information literacy skills while gaining a basic understanding of Judaic and Jewish literacy through their enrollment in a popular general education Jewish Studies course. This presentation will discuss how students are introduced to critical thinking skills through library instruction interventions that assign them to locate and analyze authoritative and scholarly information in order to help them learn how to detect the bias and misinformation that often permeates online digital searches. Serving more than 3,500 Jewish undergraduates and 650 graduate students, CSUN currently has the 13<sup>th</sup> largest Jewish student population in the United States and the largest in the state of California.

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#### **AUTHOR LUNCH**

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**Authors participating:** Jeff Gottesfeld, Jane Zalben, April Halprin Wayland, Anne Stamper, Barbara Bietz, Michelle Markel, Emily Jenkins, Erica Silverman, Vesper Stamper, James Rey Sanchez, Barb Rosenstock, Erica Perl, Jonathan Auxier, Mark Sarvas, Scott Nadelson, Alva Sachs, Maggie Anton, Gina Nahai, Nancy Churnin, Ron Wolfson, Lee Cohen, Michal Lemberger, Rick Richman, Rachel Adler, Susan Dubin

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#### **Session 5A** LC Cataloging Update

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### **Israel and Judaica Section (Library of Congress) Update**

*Haim Gottschalk, Gail Shirazi, Jeremiah Aaron Taub, and Galina Teverovsky*

Representatives from the Israel and Judaica Section of the Library of Congress will discuss a variety of acquisitions and cataloging matters, including new and recent classification numbers and subject headings, highlights of IJ Section cataloging practice, developments in serials cataloging and processing, and general Library of Congress news.

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**Session 5B**
**Jewish Text Study and Rituals**


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**The Holy Mysticat: Pairing Whimsy with Scholarship**
**Rachel Adler**

Rabbi Rachel Adler PhD, Ellenson Professor of Jewish Religious Thought, Professor of Modern Jewish Thought at the HUC-JIR/Los Angeles, whose *Engendering Judaism* (1999) earned her the distinction of being the first female theologian to win the National Jewish Book Award in Jewish Thought, has a new book coming out. *Tales of the Holy Mysticat* (2019, Banot Press) began as a series of Facebook posts about Adler's cat, intended as a creative way to share additional teachings with her students outside of the classroom. These posts garnered a following. Maggie Anton offered to publish *Tales of the Holy Mysticat* with her independent press, Banot Books (the original publisher of *Rashi's Daughters*). Judaic books editor Rabbi Beth Lieberman is serving as editor on the project.

Rachel, Maggie, and Rabbi Lieberman will speak as a team about how this process unfolded – the author's vision for teaching Jewish texts, thought, and theology; the editor's techniques of pairing the author's whimsy with her scholarship; and the publisher's strategies for bringing this out into the world. It is worth noting, of course, that all three individuals share a love of cats.

**Genizah Procedures at Mount Sinai Memorial Park**
**Howard Kaplan**

This presentation will describe the genizah process *after* items arrive at the facility. Are the books buried in a specific section? Can patrons authorize the burial of books with their body before death? Can family members ask that books be buried with their loved ones?

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**Session 5C**
**Meet the Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners**


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**Meet the Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners**
**Rebecca Levitan**

The 2019 award winning authors and illustrators will present their books. This award is given each year in three categories: Younger readers (birth to grade 3), Older readers (grades 4 – 8) and Teen readers (grades 9 – 12) for books that exemplify the highest literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience. Winner, Honor, and Notable books are given in each category.

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**Session 6A**  
Collections from Near and Far

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**From Guatemala to California via Brooklyn and Ann Arbor: The Life and Work of Sephardi Author Victor Perera (1934-2003) as Reflected in the University of Michigan Library Special Collections Research Center.**

***Gabriel Mordoch***

A son of Sephardic parents from Jerusalem, the author, journalist and scholar Victor Haim Perera (1934-2003), was born in Guatemala City and moved to New York at the age of twelve. He graduated from Brooklyn College and subsequently received a master's degree in English literature from the University of Michigan. After that, he moved to California to teach literature, writing and journalism at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and later at the Berkeley campus. Perera's writings focused on Sephardic Jewry and on Latin America (particularly the Maya Indians). The goal of this presentation is to offer a glimpse into his works, personal library, interviews and other materials housed at the University of Michigan Library Special Collections Research Center.

**Kehile-Kdoyshe ha-Malokhim: Gems from the Los Angeles Yiddish Community in the Yale University Library**

***Julie Cohen***

Although Jews did not even arrive in Los Angeles until nearly two hundred years after they began to settle on the East Coast, by the mid-twentieth century, Jews of Los Angeles proudly asserted its position as the second largest and most important community in the country (Rotblat, 1955). In recent years scholars have begun to give attention to the history and the literary output of the growing community of Yiddish speaking Jews in the greater Los Angeles area. Yale is fortunate to own over seventy Yiddish works published in Los Angeles, mainly between 1925-1965. About a dozen date to the period of rapid expansion of the community in the 1920s and '30s. Of particular interest are three issues of satirical holiday gazettes, *Der Grager* and *Dos Dreydl*, from 1927 and 1928 that do not appear in any of the bibliographical databases. The presentation will highlight these rare sources and what they can tell us about the Jewish community of Los Angeles during this period.

**Private Collections in Vilnius Jewish Public Library**

***Zilvinas Beliauskas***

Vilnius Jewish Public Library is in the process of structuring and presenting private libraries of distinguished book donators. In this way, not only VJP library's collection is being expanded, but the memory and character of some prominent personalities is saved and reflected.

This presentation will focus on three personalities who contributed to the collection.

*Izrealis Lempertas* (1925-2013) was a professor in Vilnius Pedagogical University and with the restoration of the Lithuanian Independence dedicated his scientific endeavors to the investigation of the Jewish and in particular Litvak culture and history.

*Esfir Bramson-Alperniene* (1924 -2016) was a great cultural, social and literary activist, librarian, book collector, and the author of the famous "At the Treasury of Judaica" (2009).

*Irena Veisaitė*, (1918- ) is a Holocaust survivor and great humanist, specialist in theater, art, literature and humanities.

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**Session 6B**
**Important Persons and Their Collections**


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**Discovering Jewish Lithuania Between Two World Wars: Manuscripts of Khayim Nakhman Shapira and Esther Eljasev**

***Julijana Leganovic***

When Kaunas in 1919 became the centre of the regenerating Independent State of Lithuania, the Jewish Community of Kaunas took an active part in the building of the state. They have contributed to every aspect of Lithuanian life from literature and the arts, to science and politics. Recently among the documents that were hidden during the war and preserved in the National Library of Lithuania, a few dozen additional diaries, autobiographies and manuscripts were found. Among them were drafts and notes of a few prominent Jewish figures in interwar Lithuania including Khayim Nakhman Shapira and Esther Eljashev. These personalities undoubtedly contributed to the growth of Lithuanian culture and education. Working documents, notes and drafts are an interesting opportunity to look at the interwar Lithuanian life, personal problems and difficulties.

**The Friedlandia Library: A Missed Opportunity for the Jewish People?**

***Dan Rabinowitz***

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the title of greatest library in Eastern Europe, in terms of size, rarities, of both books and manuscripts was that of Moses Areyeh Löeb Friedland (1826-1899). According to some, his collection was even ranked in the same class as that of the Bodleian. The library included three hundred volumes of manuscripts (including a few on parchment), thirty-two incunabula, and 10,000 volumes printed mostly in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The collection was created by proxy, through the efforts of the outstanding bibliographer Samuel Wiener (Samuil Eremeevich Viner, 1860-1929). In the early 1890s, Friedland began examining various Jewish institutions to which to donate his library. In 1892, however, Friedland rejected all of the Jewish options and instead donated his library to the Russian state, to the Asiatic Museum in St. Petersburg where it still resides.

Dan will discuss the history of the formation of the library, its path to the Asiatic museum and why it was not donated to a Jewish institution, some of its most important items and Wiener, one of the great bibliographers of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, whose catalog of the Friedland collection is still relied upon by scholars today.

**A Newly-Discovered Document of Nineteenth-Century Orthodox Jewry: The Notebook of a Mohel in Baltimore and Beyond**

***Chaim Meiselman***

During the course of cataloging work at Towson University, Chaim discovered a volume of Sod ha-Shem, a manual for a mohel (ritual circumciser) printed in Amsterdam in 1744. Appended to the leaves is a complete log of the mohel Noteh Grümbach's travels beginning in 1818 in Hesse and Bavaria and environs and continuing with his relocation to Baltimore in 1853. The historical record presented by the writing in this volume is wide-ranging and significant. This presentation will detail events in Grümbach's life and situate his work in the broader context of 19<sup>th</sup> century American history. Chaim will demonstrate Grümbach's extensive itineraries into states as far as Ohio and South Carolina via a map outlining dates and places of travel, and will discuss the effects of increased urbanization and the growth of railroads on his travels.

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**Session 6C**Sydney Taylor Award Committee Members

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**Presentation by Sydney Taylor Award Committee*****Rebecca Levitan, Susan Kusel, Rena Citrin, Shoshana Flax, Sylvie Shaffer, Marjorie Shuster, Rivka Yerushalmi***

The committee will discuss favorite Jewish children's books as seen from the award submissions and give a behind-the-scenes look at how the award winners are selected.

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**Session 6D**Persian Literature and Publishing

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**Persian Literature and Publishing*****Gina Nahai, Ari Babaknia, Bijan Khalili***

Dr. Ari Babaknia will speak about his four-volume book in Persian on the Holocaust and its impact on Iranian's awareness and sensitivity to this human tragedy, specifically on non-Jews. Bijan Khalili, publisher, bookseller and journalist, will speak about the publications of the Iranian Jewish community outside Iran in the last forty years. Gina Nahai will speak about the reasons why the 2,500-year history of Iranian Jews went largely unrecorded until they moved to the US, the process of collecting data, and the impact on the community on seeing their stories gathered and archived. Gina's work deals primarily with the history (both ancient and contemporary) of Iranian Jews, from their beginnings in what was then Babylon to their present here in the United States.

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## Session 7A

### Bible Collections

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#### **The Book of Psalms: Translations and Transformations**

***Paul Miller***

The Hebrew book of Psalms (Tehillim) has been translated and transformed to become an integral part of Jewish and Christian worship throughout the centuries. This presentation explores the history of the use of Psalms in liturgy. It will be illustrated by examples of worship books from the collections of the Lowy-Winkler Family Rare Book Center. It will also include musical examples.

#### **Early Tanach Printings in the Yeshiva University Library**

***Avrom Shuchatowitz***

In August 2018, Dr. Parviz Lalazari donated two volumes of early Tanach (Hebrew Bible) printings to the library of Yeshiva University. One was a volume from a Tanach printed in Venice in 1524 by Daniel Bomberg (1483-1553) and the other was a volume from an Amsterdam publication by Moses Frankfurter (1672-1762).

Beginning with just these two volumes, YU proceeded to locate other uncatalogued volumes so complete sets could be made. YU now has three Bomberg printings: 1524, 1546, and 1547. These Bible printings contain many early commentaries, as well as additional material on the Masorah, the traditional text of the Bible.

Also completed was a set of the 1724 Amsterdam printing. This one also contained a large compilation of early and later commentaries. There were multiple copies, each one from a different owner. One owner appended to the volume handwritten information and newspaper clippings about his family. Other owners were in Poland and England, each bearing their stamps and inscriptions.

#### **Alpha Beta of ben Sira**

***Yoram Bitton***

This year is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a publication of very unique and interesting book, *Alpha Betah of Ben Sira*. The book was published for the first time in Constantinople in 1519. It became very popular and was published many times in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The book, which caused disagreement in the Middle Ages, is representative of what today we would call Pulp Fiction or low-quality literature. Yoram will discuss the importance of the book and more importantly, the social-historical context that caused this book to be published.

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## Session 7B

### General Interest

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#### **Anne Frank at 90: Why Is the Diary Not Enough Today?**

***Menno Metselaar***

In June 2019, Anne Frank would have been 90 years old. Anne and her family's hiding place, now a museum, is still one of the top attractions in Amsterdam today. At the same time, studies show that fifty percent of millennials in the United States don't know what Auschwitz was, and twenty percent can't tell you what the Holocaust was. As a result, Anne Frank House is producing literature and educational support materials to help young people make connections between the

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past and the present, to make what seems like distant history feel relevant to their lives and their current experiences. Speaking from his long-standing role as Project Manager at the Anne Frank House museum, Menno Metselaar will talk about using the familiar Anne Frank as the original source for new books, teaching materials, websites and exhibits that are being developed to help both adults and young people better understand the experience of anti-Semitism, as well as all forms of racism and injustice that they may experience in their lives or see playing out in the news and the world around them. This session will encourage discussion around collection development relevant to these topics, and the resources available to librarians who want to work with Anne Frank House. Menno will answer librarians' questions and exchange ideas in regards to exhibits, special projects and programming, and support materials for educators, libraries and schools.

### **A Sabbatical in Israel: Libraries, Bookstores and Non-Print Adventures**

#### ***Rachel Leket-Mor***

During her semester-long sabbatical in Israel, Rachel visited several archives and research, public, and special libraries, mostly for research and study purposes, but also just for fun. In this presentation, she will share her experiences as a library user in both famed and obscure, regional libraries where she made discoveries of all sorts.

### **Using Libraries as Jewish Art and Design Museums**

#### ***Hillel Smith***

Most library users are looking to find content. However, Hillel often uses Judaica collections superficially, examining how the books look and feel. By doing so, he can gain inspiration for his work as a visual artist, as well as develop a deeper understanding of how Jews throughout history have thought about their place in the cultures they inhabited. Paying close attention to aesthetics - including typography, illustration, and overall design - we can discover historic trends in taste and style. We can see evidence of interaction between Jews and non-Jews and view the interplay between assimilationist and isolationist tendencies. We can glean insight into the creators' political and religious affiliations and sympathies. And we can see the big questions of our day reflected in artifacts from the distant past. Particularly as we explore what it means to be Jewish now, in a globalized, humanistic society, finding precedent is empowering. How can we explore our collections in new ways? What else do they have to teach us?

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## **Session 7C**

### **SSC Roundtable**

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SSC President Emily Bergman will introduce an informative session of seven short "Pecha Kucha" presentations by various SSC members (to be announced), including discussions of present issues relating to school, synagogue, JCC and public librarians.

**Art Projects from Pinterest:** Attractive bulletin boards and student art projects give the library visibility along with disseminating Jewish knowledge. This presentation will show how to navigate the website, Pinterest, to locate assorted ideas and projects. Presented by: Ellen Share

**Capsule Collections from Beit HaTfutsot:** Learn how to choose, order, and display a variety of wonderful archival photo collections to your community, offered for free from Tel Aviv's Diaspora Museum, Beit HaTfutsot. Presented by: Lisa Silverman

**How does one go about rejuvenating a neglected library collection?** The answer is with a lot of humor, flexibility, creativity, and a willingness to try some unorthodox methods. Presented by: Anjelica N. Ruiz

**Books teaching values:** Librarians know that children's books can also be used to teach important values to adults. Examples of books that can be used to teach both parents and children about treating people equally will be shared. Presented by: Linda Blasnik

**Hand in Hand with Tech:** Students need to be proficient with digital devices, and they are. An all-digital approach often leads to superficial learning. Discover research-based strategies to strengthen students' information literacy by combining digital information and tools with that which needs no recharging--the human hand! Presented by Karen Morganstern

**Library Advocacy:** Presented by TBA

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## Session 7D

### Cataloging

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### **It All Adds Up: Chronograms in Hebrew Books**

***Marlene Schiffman***

Chronograms are often used as a dating method for classical Hebrew books. They are constructed from a phrase or biblical verse which yields a numerical value when the letters are added up. They are meant to yield a year, but often, also give another message. They often reveal the author's name, messianic hope, or a quotation from the Bible that is relevant to the topic of the book. The mathematics are not always so easy to compute: sometimes the cataloger has to count only certain letters, and sometimes s/he has to know which ones to subtract. We come across these every day in our cataloging, in both rare books and in recent publications. This paper will discuss the way in which chronograms are presented and how they can be useful to catalogers.

### **Cataloging Scrolls and Posters**

***Sheryl Stahl***

Over the years, Sheryl had been letting the library's collection of Esther scrolls and posters sit around in the hopes that they would catalog themselves or that she would wake up one day with the ability to identify the provenance of each piece in these collections. Eventually she decided that it was better to catalog them poorly, than to have them on a shelf uncataloged. Sheryl will go over the minimal requirements for cataloging scrolls and her adventures in describing the posters.

### **Metadata Granularity, Historical Anachronism: Towards a Digital Reconstruction of Catalan Jewry**

***Neil Manel Frau-Cortes***

This presentation is of two digital humanities projects aimed at reconstructing aspects of Catalano-Aragonese Jewish literature. The first one deals with the relation teacher-student among Catalan rabbis and the visualization of clusters and schools of thought. The second one aims at reconstructing the Majorcan and Catalan *nusach* through digital reunification of manuscripts and prints of prayer books. Both cases serve as a reflection on metadata granularity, including the inconvenience of grouping historical nations under anachronistic modern labels such as "Medieval Spain." Special attention will be paid to the use and edition of Wikidata as authority corpus.

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## Session 8

### Tours of AJU

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