2020 AJL Digital Conference

Staying Connected

June 28-July 2, 2020
AJL’s 55th Annual Conference
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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2020 AJL Digital Conference: Staying Connected, our first ever digital conference. While we can’t meet in person due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, I promise you the next few days will be filled with engaging programs that will leave you with new information and an energized outlook to take back to your jobs wherever they are being performed at the moment.

Of course, none of this would be possible without an extraordinary team of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to put this all together. I want to extend special thanks to Rachel Kamin, Marcie Eskin, Lisa Silverman and Jackie Ben-Efraim, who managed to turn a whole lot of lemons into delicious lemonade. They were supported by a fantastic team of AJL members who are listed in this conference program book.

There is so much to do, but you do not want to miss our incredible Keynote featuring Jonathan and Adam Kirsch in conversation with Erica Dreifus, our welcoming Virtual Round Table, all of our award-winning authors and illustrators, and the installation of our new AJL Board. That is a lot to choose from, so I encourage you to let the Socio App assist in setting (and remembering) your schedule and help you network with all your AJL friends.

This is truly going to be an international conference with presenters and participants from all over North America and the world. I encourage you to drink it up and enjoy our next few days together. I hope we can all be together in 2021 in person, but for now I am excited to virtually learn with and from everyone.

Dina Herbert
AJL President
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Lenore Bell
Jackie Ben-Efraim
Emily Bergman
Kathy Bloomfield
Michelle Chesner
Marcie Eskin
Elana Gensler
Dina Herbert
Rachel Kamin
Jerry Krautman
Rebecca Levitan
Heidi Rabinowitz
Lisa Silverman
We thank the **2020 AJL Chicago Conference Committee**
who worked diligently through March 2020 to plan the conference
that was scheduled to take place in Evanston, IL.

Sarah Aronson
Cheryl Banks
Kathy Bloch
Barbara Breakstone
Sarah Burnstein
Rena Citrin
Shira Cohen
Leah Cohen
Debbie Colodny
Eva Eisenstein
Marcie Eskin, Co-Chair
Doris Gould
Carol Grannick
Andrea Hall
Robin Higgins
Rachel Kamin, Co-Chair
Susan Kaplan-Toch
Robbin Katzin
Joy Kingsolver
Anne Knafll
Shelley Riskin
Barb Rosenstock
Shoshanah Seidman
Vicki Siegelman
Lisa Silverman, AJL National Conference Chair
Debbie Steinberg
Donnie Stuhlman
We are grateful to the following individuals and institutions for their generous support of AJL’s 2020 Digital Conference

**Major Corporate and Charitable Donors**
- Dan Wyman
- EBSCO
- Kar-Ben Publishing
- The Myer and Rosalind Feinstein Family Fund
- OCLC
- OPALS/Mediaflex

**Platinum Donors**
- Eric Chaim Kline
- Jo Taylor Marshall
- Dr. Greta Silver

**Gold Donors**
- Gealdor
- School Library Journal
- Yale

**Sponsors**
- Kalaniot Books
- Scholar’s Choice
We thank the following Members and Friends who generously contributed to our Rededication Campaign.

Zachary Baker
Jackie Ben-Efraim
Sharon Benamou
Emily Bergman
Kathleen Bloomfield
Sean Boyle
Michelle Chesner
Elliot Gertel
Haim Gottschalk
Aileen Grossberg
Elinor Grumet
Dina Herbert
Stephen Jones
Joy Kingsolver
Jerry Krautman
Rachel Leket-Mor
Amalia Levi
David Levy

Nancy Lipsey
Susan March
Caroline Miller
Paul Miller
Heidi Rabinowitz
Arlene Ratzabi
Joseph Sacks
Ellen Share
Ellen Share
Lisa Silverman
Sheryl Stahl
Sally Stieglitz
Alan Strauss
Barbara Sutton
Ellen Tilman
Amalia Warshenbrot
Holly Zimmerman
Mission

The Association of Jewish Libraries promotes Jewish literacy through enhancement of libraries and library resources and through leadership for the profession and practitioners of Judaica librarianship.

The Association fosters access to information, learning, teaching and research relating to Jews, Judaism, the Jewish experience, and Israel.

Goals

1. Maintain high professional standards for Judaica librarians and recruit qualified individuals into the profession.
2. Facilitate communication and exchange of information on a global scale.
3. Encourage quality publication in the field in all formats and media, print, digital, etc.; stimulate publication of high quality children's literature.
4. Facilitate and encourage establishment of Judaica library collections.
5. Enhance information access for all through application of advanced technologies.
6. Publicize the organization and its activities in all relevant venues
   a. Stimulate awareness of Judaica library services among the public at large
   b. Promote recognition of Judaica librarianship within the wider library profession
   c. Encourage recognition of Judaica library services by other organizations and related professions.
7. Ensure continuity of the Association through sound management, financial security, effective governance and a dedicated and active membership.

Divisions

The Association of Jewish Libraries was created in 1965 as a result of the merger of two organizations. The Jewish Librarians Association, founded in 1947, concerned itself with collections of Judaica in academic, archival or research institutions. The Jewish Library Association, founded in 1962, concerned itself with collections in synagogue, school, and community center libraries, as well as other smaller libraries and media centers.

Today, AJL continues to serve the needs and specialized interests of these groups through its two divisions:
   The Research Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections Division (RAS)
   The Synagogue, School, Center and Public Libraries Division (SSCPL)
Accreditation Committee
The charge of the Accreditation Committee is to: 1) design accreditation instruments for Synagogue, School, Center and Public Libraries Division libraries; 2) review completed accreditation forms and award Basic and Advanced Status to those libraries who qualify; 3) advise and mentor libraries who request help reaching accreditation status; and 4) publicize the accreditation process in appropriate venues and publications.

Local Conference Committee
The Local Conference Committee plans and coordinates all aspects of the annual conference, including: working with the national chair to locate a hotel, arranging for meals and entertainment, planning the programming, soliciting vendors for the book fair, recruiting volunteers, and coordinating with national committees - everything necessary for those attending to have an enlightening, educational, and enriching experience during the conference.

National Conference Committee
The organization-wide Conference Committee serves to advise, support, and assist the local convention chairs in planning and presenting the annual AJL Conference.

Conference Stipend Committee
The Conference Stipend Committee reviews all applications requesting funds to attend the annual conference. The committee makes every effort to accommodate all in need of a stipend.

Groner-Wikler Scholarship
The Groner-Wikler Scholarship, sponsored by KarBen Publishing, awards a scholarship for AJL conference attendance to an AJL member who demonstrates dedication to Jewish children's literature and Jewish library services.

International Liaison
The charge of the International Liaison is to organize a panel or panels at international conferences that have a library or Jewish studies component. The committee makes contact with appropriate organizations sponsoring the conference and arranges sponsorship or joint sponsorship of one or more panels devoted to Judaica librarianship. The committee then solicits papers and decides on which papers to accept. The panel is then organized and the information is forwarded to the sponsoring organization. The committee maintains contact with the participants and publicizes the event.

Jewish Fiction Award
The AJL Jewish Fiction Award Committee selects a work or works of fiction - novels and short story and flash fiction collections - with significant Jewish thematic content for an award. AJL gratefully acknowledges Dan Wyman Books for generously underwriting this award.
**Judaica Librarianship Committee**
AJL publishes an online peer-reviewed scholarly journal, providing a forum for scholarship on all theoretical or practical aspects of Jewish Studies librarianship. The editor and committee solicit articles, oversees the peer reviewing process, edits, and prepares the journal for publication.

**Librarianship and Education Committee**
The Librarianship & Education Committee develops and promotes specialized courses (online and/or in person) for individuals interested in Judaica librarianship, both those in library school and those seeking continuing education.

**Member Relations Committee**
The Member Relations Committee seeks to strengthen AJL by relationship-building and community-building among the membership. Member Relations also oversees AJL’s Mentoring program.

**News and Reviews Committee**
AJL publishes a quarterly online journal sharing organizational news and reviews of new Judaic books and other materials. A large cadre of volunteer reviewers provides content, and members are welcome to submit articles in consultation with the general editor.

**Public Relations Committee**
The Public Relations Committee’s charge is to publicize the work of AJL via traditional and social media, assist committees in sharing their news, and assist AJL with networking and outreach efforts.

**Publications Committee**
The Publications Committee oversees the distribution of AJL publications including monographs. It also seeks to publish new materials of interest to AJL members.

**RAS Cataloging Committee**
The charge of the RAS Cataloging Committee is to act as a liaison with the Policy and Standards Division of the Library of Congress on issues affecting Judaica cataloging.

**Reference and Bibliography Award Committee**
The Reference and Bibliography Award Committee is charged with annually selecting the winners of the Reference and Bibliography Award. Committee members review and evaluate books submitted by publishers for the awards.

**Scholarship Committee**
The Scholarship Committee is responsible for sending announcements of the AJL scholarship competition to all accredited American and Canadian library schools; selecting the winner(s); publicizing the fund and announcing donations in the newsletter; sending notes of acknowledgement to those in whose honor, or family of those in whose memory, donations are made.

**Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee**
The Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee is charged with annually selecting the winners of the Sydney Taylor Book Award and with implementing the process by which the winners are selected, publicized, and presented. Committee members review and evaluate books submitted by publishers for the award.
Sydney Taylor Manuscript Competition Committee
The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Competition Committee is charged with annually selecting the winners of the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award and with implementing the process by which the winners are selected, publicized, and presented. Committee members review and evaluate manuscripts submitted by authors for the award.

**AJL BOARD 2020-2022**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Kathy Bloomfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Dina Herbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP/President Elect</td>
<td>Michelle Chesner</td>
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<td>VP Membership</td>
<td>Sharon Benamou</td>
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<td>VP Development</td>
<td>Jackie Ben-Efraim</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Holly Zimmerman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Eitan Kensky</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAS President</td>
<td>Amalia S. Levi</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAS Vice President</td>
<td>Anna Levia</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSCPL President</td>
<td>Samara Katz</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSCPL Vice President</td>
<td>Sean Boyle</td>
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The Association of Jewish Libraries is dedicated to providing a safe and harassment-free environment for all of its conference attendees and has a zero-tolerance policy regarding harassment, intimidation, discrimination and retaliation. This includes inappropriate physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention, harassment, intimidation, and discrimination made on the basis of race, color, age, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, national origin, ancestry, disability, medical condition, religion, class, body size, veteran status, marital/domestic partnership status, citizenship, religious observance, or any other marginalized identity.

The AJL Anti-Harassment Policy is applicable to all AJL events and all AJL venues, including conferences, Chapter meetings, and online interactions.

Code of Conduct
All participants in AJL events and activities, including members, guests, exhibitors, presenters and volunteers, are required to comply with the following anti-harassment code of conduct. The AJL Anti-Harassment Policy prohibits harassment, including but not limited to the following behaviors:

- Inappropriate physical contact.
- Unwelcome sexual attention.
- *Quid pro quo* – sexual harassment that occurs when one in an authority position requests sex or a sexual relationship in exchange for professional consideration or favors.
- Deliberate intimidation, stalking, or following.
- Unwelcome photography or recording.
- Abusive verbal or written comments, such as: teasing, slurs, epithets, threats, threats, jokes, derogatory comments or drawings, or graphic comments about a person’s body.
- Sustained disruption of talks or other events.

Harassment does not include respectful disagreement or reasonable and respectful critique made in good faith. AJL continues to welcome and appreciate presentation of controversial ideas, free speech, and creative artistic expression. AJL encourages members to hold one another accountable to the Code of Conduct and to take the perspectives of others seriously when a disagreement arises.

Reporting Procedures
Any person who believes there has been a violation of the AJL Anti-Harassment Policy can report the offense in one or all of the following ways:

- All AJL conferences will designate one or more Safety Team Members who will be available during the conference to provide a safe space for members to report an incident. The Safety Team Member(s) will be identified in the Program Book on the Anti-Harassment Policy page and introduced at the opening session of the conference. The Safety Team Member(s) will report directly to the President and/or Conference Chair in charge.

- AJL has a dedicated email address for reporting any incident of harassment. Anyone who chooses to report an incident can find the Anti-Harassment Report Form on the website (About > Anti-Harassment Policy) or use the following email: harassment@jewishlibraries.org. Reports can be filled out anonymously or with identifying information. Reports should include the substance of the complaint, date, and whenever possible, a list of witnesses or a reference to the relevant URLs, if the offense occurred online. This email address will be monitored at all times, including during AJL events. AJL
will fully investigate all complaints and take whatever action is necessary and appropriate to prevent a recurrence. AJL will make every attempt to respond to a named complainant in a timely fashion.

Non-Retaliation
The AJL Anti-Harassment Policy prohibits retaliation against a member of the AJL community for reporting harassment, intimidation or discrimination, or for participating in an investigation relating to any complaint made.

Investigations and Sanctions
AJL takes all allegations of harassment seriously. Every report will be investigated by a panel consisting of independent consultants specializing in issues of harassment. AJL will make every reasonable effort to conduct all investigations into allegations of harassment, intimidation, or discrimination in a manner that will protect the confidentiality of all parties. Notwithstanding the above, confidentiality is not absolute, and those with a legitimate business reason to know and be informed of the allegations will be so informed. Parties to the complaint are expected to treat the matter under investigation with discretion and respect the reputation of all parties involved. The results of the investigation and the recommendations of the panel will be reported to the members of the Board, who will determine the appropriate sanction, in conjunction with the panel and/or, if deemed necessary and appropriate, in consultation with an independent arbiter (i.e legal counsel, HR expert, etc.) Sanctions for AJL members, guests, exhibitors, presenters and volunteers may include any of the following:

- warning the party involved that the particular behavior is inappropriate and must be ceased;
- immediate removal from the event;
- denial of access to AJL spaces and venues on a temporary or permanent basis;
- withholding of a contracted honorarium;
- prohibition from future speaking engagements;
- removal from AJL Board or AJL Council, when appropriate;
- termination of AJL membership, without refund;
- prohibition from future AJL membership.

last update 4/30/2018
THE 2020 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARDS
Sponsored by Jo Taylor Marshall

Picture Book Winner
The Book Rescuer: How a Mensch from Massachusetts Saved Yiddish Literature for Generations to Come by Sue Macy, illustrated by Stacy Innerst,

Middle Grade Winner
White Bird: A Wonder Story by R.J. Palacio, illustrated by the author

Young Adult Winner
Someday We Will Fly by Rachel DeWoskin

Picture Book Honors
Gittel’s Journey: An Ellis Island Story by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Amy June Bates
The Key from Spain: Flory Jagoda and Her Music by Debbie Levy, illustrated by Sonja Wimmer

Middle Grade Honors
Games of Deception: The True Story of the First US Olympic Basketball Team at the 1936 Olympics in Hitler’s Germany by Andrew Maraniss
Anya and the Dragon by Sofiya Pasternack

Young Adult Honors
Dissenter on the Bench by Victoria Ortiz
Sick Kids in Love by Hannah Moskowitz

2020 BODY-OF-WORK AWARD WINNER
Lesléa Newman

Committee Members
Rena Citrin, Shoshana Flax, Marjorie Ingall, Rebecca Levitan, Sylvie Shaffer, Marjorie Shuster, Rivka Yerushalmi
2020 JUDAICA BIBLIOGRAPHY AWARD
-sponsored by Mr. Eric Kline

Winner
Catalog of Catalogs: A Bibliography of Temporary Exhibition Catalogs Since 1876 that Contain Items of Judaica
William Gross, Orly Tzion and Falk Wiesemann, eds.

2020 JUDAICA REFERENCE AWARDS
-sponsored by Dr. Greta Silver

Winner
A Rainbow Thread: An Anthology of Queer Jewish Texts from the First Century to 1969
by Noam Sienna and Judith Plaskow

Honorable Mention
Social Justice and Israel/Palestine: Foundational and Contemporary Debates
Aaron Hahn Tapper and Mira Sucharov, eds.

2020 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Judaica Americana: A Bibliography of Publications to 1900
by Robert Singerman

RAS Award Committee Members
Amalia S. Levi, Hayim Gottschalk, Anne Knafl, Gabriel Mordoch, David Levy

2020 JEWISH FICTION AWARDS
-sponsored by Dan Wyman

Winner
On Division by Goldie Goldbloom

Honor Book
The Flight Portfolio by Julie Orringer

Committee Members
Merrily Hart, Rachel Kamin, Rosalind Reisner, Laura Schutzman, Sheryl Stahl
FANNY GOLDSTEIN AWARD
Zachary M. Baker

Committee Members
Jacqueline Ben-Efraim, Susan Dubin, Elana Gensler, Elliot H. Gertel, Daniel Scheide

LIBRARY ACCREDITATION

Advanced Accreditation
The Jewish Day School Library & Media Center of the Jewish Day School of the Lehigh Valley; Allentown, PA
Sean Boyle, Head Librarian and Educational Technology Specialist

The Lainer Library, Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am; Los Angeles, CA
Essia Cartoon-Fredman, Librarian

Basic Accreditation – Renewal
Library, Torah Day School of Atlanta; Atlanta, GA
Linda Rabinowitz, Academic Dean and Davida Levin (recently retired)

The Marian Renee Saltzberg Learning Resource Center/Irving Rubenstein Memorial Library of Congregation Beth Shalom; Northbrook, IL
Shira Cohen, Librarian

Advanced Accreditation – Renewal
Media Center, The Alfred & Adele Davis Academy, Atlanta, GA
Stacy Brown, 21st Century Learning Coordinator
Lower School Library
Middle School Library

Accreditation Committee
Shaindy Kurzmann, Arlene Ratzabi, Cara Sagal, Bruchie Weinstein
FANNY GOLDSTEIN MERIT AWARD

Zachary Baker provided over four decades of dedicated and scholarly service to the field of Judaica librarianship and the Association of Jewish Libraries beginning in 1976 at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City as a cataloger of Yiddish books until 1981 as well as a genealogical reference librarian beginning around 1978. From 1981 to 1987, he worked at the Montreal Jewish Public Library and was appointed as its head of technical services circa 1983. From 1987-1999, Zachary returned to YIVO as Head Librarian. Most recently, he served as Reinhard Family Curator of Judaica and Hebraica Collections in the Stanford University Libraries from 1999-2018, a position from which he retired in January 2018. In addition, from 2010 until his retirement, he was the Stanford Libraries’ Assistant University Librarian for Collection Development for the Humanities and Social Sciences. He has published numerous articles and bibliographies relating to Yiddish and other areas of Jewish studies.

Zachary has been a very active member of AJL for as long as any of us can remember—he attended his first AJL conference in 1976. Among his many positions in AJL, he was president of the association from 1994-1996. He was a leading member of the local AJL Annual Convention organizing committee before, during, and following this event in 2005 when it took place in Oakland, California. He was also a longtime contributing editor and editor-in-chief of Judaica Librarianship. Zachary received an AJL Judaica Reference honorable mention in 2018 for Resources in Yiddish Studies published in: In Geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies.

Zachary is not only the consummate Judaica librarian but a leading scholar of all things Judaic and is especially well-versed in Yiddish studies. His contributions to AJL and the field are so abundant, it would be difficult to even begin to take stock of them. He presented numerous papers at AJL Conferences over the years, virtually annually, before his retirement.

On October 9, 2018, “Zachary M. Baker Presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who’s Who. He has been endorsed by Marquis Who’s Who as a leader in the field of library science.” Mazel-tov, yasher-koyekh, kol ha-kavod, and congratulations to Zachary who is a most worthy recipient of the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award.

The Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Committee
Jacqueline Ben-Efraim, Susan Dubin, Elana Gensler, Elliot H. Gertel, Daniel Scheide
# PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

## Sunday, June 28

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11-11:45 a.m. EDT</td>
<td>How to Use Socio, Zoom and Zoom Webinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-1:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Newcomers Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>AJL Virtual Roundtable</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-7 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>AJL Council Meeting</td>
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## Monday, June 29

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. ED T</td>
<td>Keynote Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-1:45 p.m. ED T</td>
<td>SSCPL Division Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-3:15 p.m. ED T</td>
<td>AJL General Membership Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-6:45 p.m. ED T</td>
<td>Book Club Facilitators Meeting</td>
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<td>7-8:30 p.m. ED T</td>
<td>Book Discussion</td>
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**Tuesday, June 30**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners; Part 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-1:45 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners; Part 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3:30 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Fresh Lit: Recent &amp; Forthcoming Adult Jewish Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8:30 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Special Author Event Featuring Leslea Newman</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-1:45 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Cataloging Updates</td>
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<td>2-3:30 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Collecting &amp; Collections</td>
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**Wednesday, July 1**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-8:45 a.m. EDT</td>
<td>International Librarians' Roundtable</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Building Bridges in the Day School Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30-1:45 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Jewish Librarians in Secular Libraries</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-3:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Why Social Media Matters to Readers and Writers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Library Advocacy Conversation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>International Judaica Collections Spanning the Globe, Part I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30-1:45 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>International Judaica Collections Spanning the Globe, Part II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Archives, Old &amp; New</td>
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### Thursday, July 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Listening &amp; Learning about Diversity in Jewish Literature for Children &amp; Teens</td>
<td>Collecting &amp; Cataloging in 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30-1:45 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Reviewing and Evaluating Picture Books</td>
<td>Digital Projects in Jewish Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3:30 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Funny, They Don't Look Jewish! A Live Comic Book Podcast</td>
<td>Documenting Global Jewish Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8:30 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Brain Bash Trivia and Cocktail Hour</td>
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SUNDAY, JUNE 28

11:00-11:45 a.m. EDT

HOW TO USE SOCIO, ZOOM & ZOOM WEBINAR
Moderators: Jackie Ben-Efraim, Heidi Rabinowitz and Lisa Silverman

12:00-1:15 p.m. EDT

NEWCOMERS WELCOME
Get the most out of our first virtual conference and meet some new friends! Join AJL member and past president, Heidi Rabinowitz, as she explains tips on the best ways to enjoy an AJL conference.

2:00-3:15 p.m. EDT

AJL VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE
Join AJL President Dina Herbert and President-Elect Kathy Bloomfield to check-in, support one another during this turbulent time, and continue “Staying Connected.” Make sure to participate in our "Best Zoom Background" contest!

4:00-7:00 p.m. EDT

AJL COUNCIL MEETING
For AJL Board and Council members only
MONDAY

MONDAY, JUNE 29

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT

FEINSTEIN KEYNOTE ADDRESS

“Who Wants to Be a Jewish Reader? A Discussion on Reviewing Jewish Books” with Jonathan Kirsch and Adam Kirsch, moderated by Erika Dreifus. Inspired by Adam Kirsch’s recent *Who Wants to Be a Jewish Writer?* (Yale UP, 2019), this conversation between Adam Kirsch and his father, Jewish Journal Books Editor Jonathan Kirsch, will trace issues in the reviewing of Jewish books: past, present, future. They will be joined by moderator Erika Dreifus. Q&A will follow the discussion.

12:30-1:45 p.m. EDT

SSCPL DIVISION MEETING

Join with your school, synagogue, center, and public library colleagues to see what SSCPL has been up to this year. The committees have been busy, yet work still needs to be done. This is your chance to be among the first to know. As always, the highlight will be the awarding of the Accreditation Awards. We want to cheer our colleagues who have worked so hard to achieve their levels of accreditation.

RAS DIVISION MEETING

Join with your research, archives, and special librarian colleagues to learn about updates from the last year. We’ll welcome new colleagues to the field, and discuss news and relevant information for the field of Jewish Studies.

2:00-3:15 p.m. EDT

AJL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert Singerman, the Sydney Taylor Body of Work Award to Lesléa Newman and the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award to Zachary Baker, as well as the installation of the new AJL Board and information about the “Put-My-Library-on-the-Map Hackathon” with Neil Frau-Cortes (University of Maryland Libraries).
MONDAY/TUESDAY

6:00-6:45 p.m. EDT

BOOK CLUB FACILITATORS ROUNDTABLE

Do you lead a Jewish book club? Join Lisa Silverman Silverman and Rachel Kamin to discuss best practices, share your tried & true book club favorites, and learn about new resources to enhance your discussions.

7:00-8:30 p.m. EDT

BOOK DISCUSSION:
On Division by Goldie Goldbloom

Join Rachel Kamin and the members of the AJL Fiction Award Committee for a discussion of the 2020 award winner, On Division by Goldie Goldbloom. Participants are encouraged to read the book ahead of time but all are welcome.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT

SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD WINNERS: PART I

Meet the Sydney Taylor Honor Award winners, including Lesléa Newman & Amy June Bates (Gittel’s Journey), Debbie Levy (The Key from Spain), Andrew Maraniss (Games of Deception), Sofiya Pasternack (Anya and the Dragon), and Victoria Ortiz (Dissenter on the Bench), and hear from the committee members (Rebecca Levitan, Rena Citrin, Shoshana Flax, Marjorie Ingall, Sylvie Shaffer & Rivka Yerushalmi) about their favorite books of the year.

RAS AWARDS:
The AJL Judaica Reference Award and The Judaica Bibliography Award
Moderator: Amalia Levi

In this session, we will hear from the winners of AJL’s Reference and Bibliography Awards. William Gross’s Catalog of Catalogs is a monumental work that brings together untapped source material that will be of interest to scholars of Judaica, Jewish art, social life and customs, liturgical
objects and religious life, architecture, Jewish museums, the Holocaust, as well as the history of exhibiting. Noam Sienna’s *The Rainbow Thread* identifies and collects a range of texts that bear witness to two millennia of Queer Jewish life and history, and introduces researchers to a new range of primary sources by recovering a lineage that, according to the authors, “has been denied and withheld from the people who have sought it.” Marcin Wodzinski, whose *Historical Atlas of Hasidism* won the 2018 AJL Reference Award will be discussing his work as well.

12:30-1:45 p.m. EDT

SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD WINNERS: PART II

Meet the Sydney Taylor Book Award winners Sue Macy & Stacy Innerst (*The Book Rescuer*), R.J. Palacio (*White Bird*), and Rachel DeWoskin (*Someday We Will Fly*).

CATALOGING UPDATES

RDA ‘Oy Vey’ Copy and Complex Cataloging in the Languages of Judaism
*Elizabeth Fedden*

Jewish materials present a challenge due to the number of languages involved, Hebrew, German, and Yiddish to name a few, some of which may be unfamiliar to the cataloger. However, catalogers can learn to work with materials in unfamiliar languages with a few tips and tools. Attendees will learn: to identify quality MARC records in OCLC in non-English languages; to correctly code language fields in RDA; ways to engage with volunteers with language skills to assist in cataloging; and to identify Library of Congress standards for non-English records. Using sample records, attendees will gain these skills for use at their home library. Attendees will also be given a hands-on opportunity to test their skills at the end of the talk.

Israel and Judaica Section (Library of Congress) Update
*Haim Gottschalk, Yisrael Meyerowitz, Gail Shirazi, Jeremiah Aaron Taub, Galina Teverovsky and Nahid Gerstein*

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.

2:00-3:30 p.m. EDT

FRESH LIT: RECENT & FORTHCOMING ADULT JEWISH FICTION

How can you keep up with all the Jewish fiction published in a year? Come hear from the members of the AJL Fiction Award committee (Rosalind Reisner, Merrily Hart, Rachel Kamin, Laura Schutzman & Sheryl Stahl) and meet the 2020 AJL Fiction Award Winner Goldie Goldbloom, author of *On Division*.
Cataloging and Collecting of Unconventional Materials
Daniel Stuhlman
Both libraries and museums collect items to preserve the historical record. The missions overlap, but the theory of collection building differs. This presentation will discuss collecting and developing rules for entering unconventional items into the catalog.

Discoveries in the Fragments Collection in the 2019 Moldovan Gift to the UPenn Libraries
Louis Chaim Meiselman
The Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress provides cartographic and geographic information for all parts of the globe. It has custody of one of the largest cartographic collections in the world. What started as a collection of 47,000 maps in 1897 has grown to over five million maps, which includes a sizable number of maps in Hebrew and on the Jewish world. This presentation will highlight this collection, focusing on the Hebrew language maps and Judaica maps and a nod to some of the unique maps to pique your interest.

"Ask thy father, and he will declare unto thee, thine elders, and they will tell thee."
(Hazinu)
David B. Levy
This genealogical research describes the methods and strategies, to uncover history of various family back 18 generations and place this account in historical context. The testimony is peppered with primary sources including interviews, photos, genealogical trees, letters, Hespadim, Hashkamot, letters of semicha certification, pinkasim, maps, the historic Jewish press and current Israeli Newspapers, memoirs, public records, oral histories, tombstone inscriptions, family photos, original poems, emails, blogs, FB posts. Many secondary sources such as Eleh Ezkarah, Minsk yizkor books including an article by brother in law of Rav Menachem Gluskin, Dr. S. Lieberman who roomed with the Chazon Ish in Minsk, a Hesped by Dr. Hillel Zeitlin, Iggerot Kodesh to Rav Menachem Gluskin by the Friedicker Rebbe, Sefer Mishpachat kehilat kodesh Shklov, Morgen Yiddish Daily, and Dr Ezra Fleischer’s articles on Dr. Aryeh Vilsker including one in 1988 Kiryat Sefer. etc. Attendees interested in research librarian Dr. Vilsker should see handouts at paper “Learning from scholar librarians” at https://databases.jewishlibraries.org/node/51186 This presentation in genealogical research notes Individuals who made major impacts in their Eastern European Jewish communities, Judaism, cultural history at large, Zionism, and Eretz Yisrael and rabbinic scholarship. It is an attempt to turn to the past to guide the future, to make us better persons, seeking wisdom from the elders, as parasha Hazinu enjoins:
זְכֹר יְמוֹת עוֹלָם, בִּינוּ שְׁנֹת דֹּרֵ-וָדֹּר; שְַאַל אָבִּיךָ וְיַגֵּדְךָ, זְקֵּןֶיךָ וְיֹאמְרוּ לָךְ
SPECIAL AUTHOR EVENT

Maidels and Dreidels and Ladles, Oh My! The Journey of a Jewish Children’s Book Writer.

**Special Author Event with Lesléa Newman**, Sydney Taylor Body of Work Award winner and author of *Gittel’s Journey*, a Sydney Taylor Honor Award winner.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

**8:00-8:45 a.m. EDT**

INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANS’ ROUNDTABLE
Moderator: Michael Young

Meet other librarians from outside North America in this roundtable session, facilitated by AJL's international liaison, Michael Young.

**11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT**

BUILDING BRIDGES IN THE DAY SCHOOL LIBRARY
Moderator: Debbie Steinberg

Librarians and Teachers: Integrating Modern Jewish Literature into Jewish Education

Sarah Feldman

Librarians, teachers, and administrators in day schools, community centers, and synagogues will explore the benefits of integrating modern Jewish literature at the middle and high school level. We will look at stories and poems that invite students to ask big questions and join in a global conversation about Jewish and human struggles. The focus will be on how librarians can support making modern Jewish literature an integral part of school culture, and on generating ideas for fruitful collaborations between librarians and teachers. Participants will be introduced to an excellent resource for teaching modern Jewish literature, as well as to professional development opportunities for those wanting to learn more about the subject.
Infusing Jewish Values into a Digital Citizenship Curriculum

*Julie Koven Levine*

This session will detail how Jewish values have been integrated into the digital citizenship curriculum at a K-8 school, particularly in grades 3-5. At Rashi, our core values of Kehillah, Limud, Ruach, Tzedek, and Kavod guide our behavior. As the network is an extension of the school, our school-wide Derech Eretz policy applies to the use of our school computers and other electronic devices. Digital citizenship lessons are often framed in a Jewish context as we teach how to use the internet safely and respectfully. Lessons include discussions of Shmirat HaLashon in terms of electronic communication; awareness of our digital footprint and responsibilities when in the larger world-wide kehillah; and kavod for creators’ rights.

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### INTERNATIONAL JUDAICA COLLECTIONS SPANNING THE GLOBE: PART I

Important collections of Judaica span the globe. In this session, we will learn about libraries in Israel, Russia, and Budapest.

Presenters:
- **Michal Gruenwald** from National Library of Israel
- **Anna Nizza** from Jewish Art and Life Wing at The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
- **Ekaterina Oleshkevich** from Russian State Library
- **Zsuzsanna Toronyi** from Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives
- **Balazs Tamasi** from Library of the Rabbinical Seminary, Budapest

12:30-1:45 p.m. EDT

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### JEWISH LIBRARIANS IN SECULAR LIBRARIES

Presenters: **Robbin Friedman** (Chappaqua Library), **Susan Kusel** (Temple Rodef Shalom), **Rebecca Levitan** (Baltimore County Public Library) and **Sylvie Shaffer** (Capitol Hill Day School)

Being a Jewish librarian at a secular institution can present special challenges and rewards. Learn from four librarians in the field who work with Jewish communities of varying sizes and find out about their experiences. The panel will represent both public and school libraries. Lessons from both Jewish institutions and secular organizations will be discussed.
Alliance Israelite Universelle, Paris

Jean-Claude Kuperminc

Since the first decade of the Alliance israélite universelle in 1860, the library has been part of its project for protecting the Jews worldwide through culture and education. The specialized library has an important heritage of books, manuscripts and newspapers, mainly regarding French and Oriental Jewries. Severely impacted by the Nazis and the Soviets during and after WWII, the AIU is developing a rich digital library. Its archives are invaluable resources for the history of the Jews in the Maghrib, Balkans, and Middle East in the 19th and 20th centuries. The library has been active in many international cooperative projects.

Ets Haim Library, Livraria Montezinos, Amsterdam

Heide Warncke

Ets Haim was founded in 1616 and is the oldest active Jewish library in the world. The core of the collection are the books of the school that was part of the Portuguese congregation. It was established when the conversos who came from the Iberian Peninsula to Amsterdam were in need of Jewish education. In 1889, the private collection of the librarian of Ets Haim, David Montezinos was added. Today Ets Haim holds about 600 manuscripts and 23,000 printed books mainly in Hebrew, Spanish and Portuguese. The presentation will tell more about the history of Ets Haim and the unique nature of the collection.

Braginsky Collection, Zurich

Emile Schrijver

Goethe University, Frankfurt

Kerstin von der Krone

Established during the 19th century as part of the Public Library Frankfurt am Main and with the support of the local Jewish community, the Judaica Division at the University Library Frankfurt am Main is today the largest Hebraica and Judaica collection in Germany with ca. 250,000 titles, including 65,000 Hebraica. For more than twenty years, the Judaica division is involved in various digital projects, drawing on its own collection and in close collaboration with partners in Germany and beyond. Its digital collections offer access to Yiddish prints, Hebrew manuscripts and Incunables, a large collection of Jewish periodicals (Compact Memory) and the literature of the Wissenschaft des Judentums (Freimann collection).

Bibliophiles and Milestones: An Overview of the British Library’s Hebrew Collection

Ilana Tahan

When and how was the Hebrew collection of the British Library formed? Who were the individuals who contributed to its genesis and evolution? What about current developments and how has the Hebrew collection benefited from technological advances? These are key points that will be addressed in this PowerPoint presentation.
WHY SOCIAL MEDIA MATTERS TO READERS AND WRITERS
Moderator: Amy Pine

Lauren Margolin and Liza Wiemer
This will be an informative program about the impact social media has on what people read. The NY Times is not the only go-to anymore. Authors spend, on average, about three hours a day on social media. They, and their publishers, court trusted book bloggers/reviewers who have a strong social media presence, which offers exposure that in-house publicists cannot provide. We will discuss the pros and cons of the following sites: Goodreads, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, as well as personal blogs. A list of important hashtags and why they’re useful will be provided. In addition, we will share what it takes to become a reviewer readers rely upon, what it means to be an influencer and how book reviewers expose and share problematic issues found in books and how this information is transformative. For authors, social media can have a powerful influence on what and how they write. It also shapes and creates a unique environment for reader/author/blogger interactions and relationships. We will discuss getting personal, social media’s influence on scandals and bestsellers, and the impact of reviews.

ARCHIVES, OLD & NEW

Partnership on the Prairie
Kate Dietrick
In 2012, the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest (JHSUM) made the decision to gift their entire archival collection, amassed over nearly thirty years, to the University of Minnesota. The creation of the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives (UMJA) marked a second act for the collection. Placed within a research university setting amongst other nationally recognized collections, UMJA is now more accessible and visible to academic scholars. But what about the community that built it? Archivist Kate Dietrick will talk about how UMJA partners with JHSUM in innovative but sometimes messy ways, and how embracing community archiving illustrates how archives can remain a vibrant part of a local community while residing within a large institution.

Collecting Kentucky Jewish History
Sarah Dorpinghaus, Abby Glogower and Heather Fox
This presentation explores questions around Jewish archival collections and the role of secular institutions in providing stewardship to these materials and histories. Three Kentucky archivists discuss the goals, rationale and impact of Jewish collecting initiatives at their respective universities and historical societies. Each case study demonstrates ways in which Kentucky Jewish history has been gaining both a pragmatic and ideologically rightful place in area repositories and, as a result, illustrating the interplay between Jewish and secular local history. Additionally, the presenters enumerate educational, programming and research opportunities afforded by building new and expanded interest in and audiences for Kentucky Jewish history.
LIBRARY ADVOCACY CONVERSATION

Do They Know Your Worth? Showcasing Your Value in the Library and How AJL Can Help  

Sean Boyle

Learn how to ensure your organization understands the worth of having a qualified librarian in its library, and how to gain community advocates to support your initiatives. This session will be directed to school, synagogue and center libraries, but can also be applied to other settings. We will start by exploring the AJL Advocacy Toolkit, as well as those from other library associations. Examples of successful collaborations between libraries and Jewish organizations will be discussed and participants can share their own inspiring stories. We will then explore different ways to gain advocates in the larger community, and explore ways that AJL can both advocate for current members and for Jewish organizations to reestablish libraries.

THURSDAY, JULY 2

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT

LISTENING & LEARNING ABOUT DIVERSITY IN JEWISH LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

Join experts Aviva Brown, Joni Sussman (Kar-Ben Publishing), and Esme Raji Codell (librarian/author/blogger) to discuss issues of diversity within modern children's literature: why it's important, how it is being achieved, who can/should write it, and how Jewish kidlit fits in.

COLLECTING & CATALOGING IN 2020

Collecting on Covid-19 in the Jewish Community  

Yoel Finkelman and Shuli Berger

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) impacted the global Jewish community in ways that were perhaps unique. Throughout the world, librarians, archivists and historians began collecting artifacts (both digital and physical) that documented this experience. This talk will address some of the discussions that surrounded these collecting endeavors, as well as the challenges of archival collection in the face of pandemic.
OCLC Updates

Nathan Putnam

This presentation will cover updates to cataloging policies and practices, as well as selected highlights of OCLC products and services.

12:30-1:45 p.m. EDT

REVIEWING AND EVALUATING PICTURE BOOKS

Brian Wilson and Betsy Bird

What makes an excellent picture book for young readers? What are some great picture books of 2019 and 2020? Betsy and Brian will discuss what they look for when choosing books for programs or one-on-one sharing, for best-of-the-year presentations, and for their blog reviews. This energetic, interactive program will celebrate a diverse group of titles. We will provide an extensive list of recommended titles.

DIGITAL PROJECTS IN JEWISH STUDIES

Moderator: Eitan Kensky

The digital world has impacted research in important ways. This session will discuss three institutions working to develop projects that have already had, or will have, a great impact on Jewish studies research: The Natural Language Processing Lab at Stern College (Josh Waxman); The Judaica Digital Humanities Project at Penn Libraries (Emily Esten); and the DiJeSt Project at Haifa University (Kepa Rodriguez, Yael Netzer, Sinai Rusenik).

2:00-3:30 p.m. EDT

FUNNY, THEY DON'T LOOK JEWISH! A LIVE COMIC BOOK PODCAST

Explore the Jewish content in comic books with podcast hosts Brandon Bernstein & Henry Bernstein who make the case that superhero comics are an excellent avenue to get young people to read, as well as an untapped tool to explore Jewish identity in a positive, thought-provoking and inclusive way.

DOCUMENTING GLOBAL JEWISH COMMUNITIES

Beyond the Holocaust: Studying Global Jewish History Through the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive

Deborah Margolis

The VHA contains over 50,000 videotaped “life history” interviews with Holocaust survivors and witnesses. It is not generally thought of as a source for history of the pre- and post-war periods,
but this session aims to highlight its potential usage for pre-war life and post-war migration and resettlement. Deborah will discuss the structure and content of VHA testimonies of the pre- and post-war periods, as well as show the still photographs which are embedded at the end of most testimonies in the VHA. She will emphasize the global nature of the VHA and demonstrate ways of searching by geography, language and time period. Deborah has worked with the VHA since 2013, leading workshops for librarians, faculty and graduate students, and teaching undergraduates from first year students in an Honors Research Seminar to upper-level history undergraduates.

Reconsidering Library Standards to Capture the World of Ladino Publishing

Makena Mezistrano

The Sephardic Studies Digital Collection is emerging as the largest repository of Ladino texts written by Sepharadim. While most of the collection is sourced from Seattle community members, they are exploring partnerships with Harvard, the National Library of Israel, and other private collections worldwide to consolidate scattered repositories. Pre-existing metadata for Ladino books is inconsistent for a number of reasons; current bibliographies cannot talk to each other and must be unified. Library standards often do not account for important data pertaining to Ladino books. They work with librarians at the UW to explore creating or modifying the Dublin Core to reflect the world of Ladino publishing, and to document those standards for reuse.

Displaced Archives in the Study of the Western Sephardic Diaspora

Amalia S. Levi

Due to historical factors, research on historical Jewish communities usually requires consulting libraries and archives in multiple countries. Archival dispersion is due to traumatic events, such as expulsions or wars; family ties or commerce; but also to political conditions. This presentation will focus on the Sephardic Jewish communities in the Caribbean. Due to colonialism, many records of these communities were displaced from their originating countries to imperial centers. Other records exist in the US and Israel. Today, this physical dispersion is complicated by the digital. To reconstruct the history of these communities, how do we deal with gaps in the historical record? What is the role of librarians and archivists in this process?

7:00-8:30 p.m. EDT

BRAIN BASH TRIVIA AND COCKTAIL HOUR

Plan to celebrate the end of the conference with a super fun, interactive Brain Bash Trivia event! Host Jeremy Cahnmann has been quizzing audiences all over the country for more than a decade and is cooking up some special AJL and library-related questions, along with lots of other stuff you know or don’t even realize you know! There will be prizes! Bring your own beverage and/or munchies and encourage all of your AJL friends to join the fun.
Shulamith (Shuli) Berger is the Curator of Special Collections at the Mendel Gottesman Library of Yeshiva University. She blogs at https://blogs.yu.edu/library/

Emily Bergman, SSCPL President, has volunteered to run her temple library for 26 years. She has been a librarian for 44 years in corporate, public, museum and different types of academic libraries. Emily is active in ALA and her current interest is to bring Jewish libraries and literature to the attention of ALA.

Brandon Bernstein has been the Campus Rabbi at Northwestern Hillel since 2015. He received rabbinic ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2014. Brandon is also part of the Chicago improv scene and spends his free hours reading comic books, playing board games or singing niggunim with friends.

Henry Bernstein has taught Judaic Studies at a Chicago middle school since 2015. He received a BA in studio art & Jewish studies at Indiana University and his MA in Jewish professional studies from Spertus. His passion for both art and Judaism has translated into his professional life. Henry has loved comic books since he saw Superman: The Movie as a two-year-old and has been drawing Superman every single day since then.

Betsy Bird is the Collection Development Manager of Evanston Public Library and the former Youth Materials Specialist of New York Public Library. She reviews children's books for Kirkus and The New York Times, on occasion, and blogs for School Library Journal at her site, A Fuse #8 Production.

Kathy Bloomfield is the incoming President of AJL. She is currently “retired,” but uses her time for a variety of activities like book editing, book reviewing and managing her personal library of over 2,000 books. Her volunteer roles have included AJL Board member, Temple president, Mikveh guide, URJ Outreach Fellow, and member of the Sydney Taylor Book Award committee. Kathy's website is http://forwordsbooks.com, where she writes about children’s literature with Jewish values content.

Sean Patrick Boyle is the librarian at the Jewish Day School of the Lehigh Valley, in Allentown PA, and received his MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh. He is the Chair of the Advocacy Committee for AJL, and a member of the Leadership Institute for School Librarians for the Pennsylvania School Librarian Association. He is a retired U.S. Naval Officer with over 23 years of service. He also has a certificate of completion from the Turkish Naval War College, an MA in teaching and learning with technology, and a BS in political science from the United States Naval Academy.

Aviva Brown is the author of Ezra’s BIG Shabbat Question, a children's picture book about a multiracial Jewish family. She’s a passionate advocate for diversity in children’s books, especially books for Jewish children. Her work has been featured in Kveller and Care.com. She is also North Carolina’s Mother of the Year 2020.

Jeremy Cahnmann, creator of Brain Bash Trivia, has been hosting and competing in live trivia events for the last decade. He has hosted and competed in events all over America and even appeared on national television.

Anna Nizza Caplan is a curator and researcher of Jewish art at The Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Anna has been specializing in medieval Hebrew Illuminated manuscripts for 21 years, beginning with her academic studies in art history at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem where she earned her BA and master's documenting and researching Hebrew illuminated manuscripts at The Center for Jewish Art where she contributed to catalogues of the these collection in Vienna and Munich. Her research on early illuminated
Hebrew manuscripts has taken her throughout Europe. Anna wrote her academic thesis on early school of Hebrew manuscripts illumination in Rome at the end of the 13th century. The most recent exhibition Anna curated is “Maimonides: A Legacy in Script” in 2018-2019 at The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, as a joint project with the National Library of Israel. Anna was born and raised in Milan, Italy. She lives in Jerusalem with her husband and children.

Michelle Chesner is the Norman E. Alexander Librarian for Jewish Studies at Columbia University. She is the President of the RAS Division of AJL, and a co-director for Footprints: Jewish Books Through Time and Place.

Rena Citrin has been the library director at Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School for the past 23 years. Located in the Lakeview neighborhood of Chicago, a long ball throw from Wrigley Field, the day school has 500 students in nursery through eighth grade and has 18,000 holdings. Rena is a graduate of Northwestern University and received her MLIS from Dominican University. This is her fourth year on the Sydney Taylor Book Award committee.

Esmé Raji Codell is the author of many award-winning and highly acclaimed books for both adults and children, including *Educating Esmé* with over half a million copies in print and *Vive la Paris*, a 2007 Sydney Taylor honor winner. The recipient of a prestigious James Patterson Pageturner Award for spreading the excitement of books in an effective and original way, this “Superstar of Education” (*Scholastic Magazine*) and “First Lady of Read-Aloud” (*Teaching K-8*) uses her love of literature daily and joyfully as a teacher-librarian with the Chicago Public Schools.

Kate Dietrick has been the Archivist of the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives at the University of Minnesota Libraries since 2013. Previously, she resided in New York where she worked as Project Archivist with the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. She holds a master’s in library and information science from Pratt Institute with specialization in archives and museum libraries, and a BA in history and women's studies from Saint Olaf College.

Sarah Dorpinghaus, MLS, is the Director of Digital Services and curator of Jewish Kentucky collections at the University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections Research Center. Previously, she was a Project Archivist for the College of Charleston’s Jewish Heritage Collection.

Erika Dreifus is the author of *Birthright: Poems*, published by Kelsay Books in Fall 2019. She is also the author of *Quiet Americans*, a short-story collection that was named an ALA/Sophie Brody Medal Honor Title. Erika earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Harvard University, where she taught history, literature and writing for several years. Currently, she lives in New York City.

Emily Esten is the Judaica Digital Humanities Project Coordinator at University of Pennsylvania Libraries, where she manages a robust program of projects and tools for digital scholarship using Penn’s Judaica collections. She specializes in public projects and digital engagement for cultural institutions.

Elizabeth Fedden’s first library job was working at the Museum of Indian Culture Laboratory of Anthropology library while earning her undergraduate degree. She then went on to pursue her MLIS at the University of Washington. There she developed an independent study on providing library services in Spanish and won an award to attend the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials Conference. Shortly after graduating, Elizabeth began her current job as the Acquisitions Librarian at the Leo Baeck Institute. Although she primarily orders and catalogs German language materials, Leo Baeck Institute has materials in many different languages.

Sarah Feldman is the Library Media Specialist at Gann Academy, a pluralistic Jewish high school in Greater Boston. Sarah has worked in both public and private schools in England and America and is a certified teacher on both sides of the Atlantic. She has also been a book editor in both London and New York. She obtained a master’s in information science from the State University of New York at Albany and has an undergraduate degree in English literature and a post-graduate certificate in education from the UK. Sarah has written materials for Behrman House publishers to use in Sunday and Hebrew schools. This
past summer, Sarah participated in the month-long Great Jewish Books Teacher Summer Seminar at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA.

Dr. Yoel Finkelman is Curator of the Haim and Hanna Salomon Judaica Collection at the National Library of Israel.

Shoshana Flax holds an MFA in writing for children from Simmons College, and is an assistant editor at the Horn Book and a member of the 2019 and 2020 Sydney Taylor Book Award committee. Previously, she worked as a children’s bookseller at Brookline Booksmith. She is represented by Amy Stern of the Sheldon Fogelman Agency, and she also sells Parodies for Charities. Follow her on Twitter @ShoshanaFlax.

Heather Fox, MLS, is a Manuscripts Archivist and Director of the Oral History Center at the University of Louisville.

Neil M. Frau-Cortes, PhD, MJwMus, MLIS, is the Hebraica cataloger and supervisor of Non-Roman and Special Collections Cataloging group at the University of Maryland. He is also Researcher in Medieval Hebrew literature, Kabbalah, and Sephardic music.

Robbin Friedman is a children's librarian at the Chappaqua Library in Chappaqua, NY. She served on the 2019 Newbery Award committee.

Nahid Gerstein was raised and educated in Shiraz/Iran and moved to Israel in 1979. She joined the Library of Congress Hebraic Section in 1987. Nahid received her undergraduate degree from George Washington University in Judaic studies and her MLS in library science from Catholic University. She has worked in various positions at the Library of Congress, but joined the cataloging team in 1999 under then supervisor, Lenore Bell.

Abby Glogower, PhD, is the Curator of Jewish Community Archives at the Filson Historical Society in Louisville Kentucky.

Goldie Goldbloom was born in Western Australia. Her first novel, The Paperbark Shoe, won the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Award for Fiction, the Literary Novel of the Year from ForeWord Magazine, and was placed on the National Endowment for the Arts "Big Read" list. Her new novel, On Division, is the 2020 AJL Fiction Award Winner and was chosen to be San Francisco's One Bay One Book selection for 2019-2020. Goldie is an activist working on behalf of queer Orthodox Jews and the creator of the international blog, Frum Gay Girl, where she interviews Orthodox LGBTQ Jews and their allies. The mother of eight children, she lives in Chicago and teaches at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University.

Haim Gottschalk earned an MEd from the University of Judaism (now American Jewish University) and an MLS from Indiana University. He worked with Judaica collections at various academic and synagogue libraries, as well as a special collections library and a research unit. He is currently a librarian in the Israel and Judaic Section in the Asian and Middle Eastern Division of the Library of Congress. He co-edited with Brian Horowitz Yiddish Modernism: Studies in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe Jewish Culture and authored Scatters of the Literature, a bibliographic column in the AJL journal Judaica Librarianship.

William Gross is a Judaica collector in Tel Aviv, Israel, and has been involved for 55 years in the Judaica world. He has exhibited widely, written more than thirty contributions to books and journals, and lectures frequently.

Michal Gruenwald is the project coordinator in the Judaica Department of the National Library of Israel.

Merrily F. Hart served as librarian at the Laura and Alvin Siegel College of Judaic Studies for over fifteen years. She served AJL as an officer of the SSC Division, member of the AJL Board, Chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee, and editor of the Adult review section of AJL News and Reviews (2007-2011). Merrily was the editor for several versions of the AJL publication Creating a Collection: A Resource
Booklist for a Beginning Judaic Library (5th ed. 2008). AJL honored her with a Life Membership. She is currently a member of the AJL Fiction Award Committee.

Dina Herbert is the National Archives and Records Administration Liaison to SNAC (Social Networks and Archival Context) where she is involved in training, editing and social media. She has previously held positions at NARA in the Innovation Hub and as librarian of the Iraqi Jewish Archive. Dina received her MLS at the University of Maryland and has degrees from Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. She is also the President of AJL. Dina lives in Alexandria, VA with her spouse and two young children.

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Stacy Innerst is an artist, illustrator and arts educator. He was born in Los Angeles and grew up in New Mexico and Pennsylvania. His picture book collaborations have earned a host of starred reviews and have consistently been selected for Best Books and Notable Lists by ALA, Bank Street, Booklist, SLJ and Publishers Weekly, among others. In addition to the Sydney Taylor Award for The Book Rescuer, Stacy’s illustrations have been recognized with the NY Times/NY Public Library Best Illustrated Children’s Book Award (Ruth Bader Ginsberg by Jonah Winter), and the SCBWI Golden Kite Award for Picture Book Illustration (The Music in George’s Head by Suzanne Slade). His latest release, Saving Lady Liberty by Claudia Friddell, was released in March 2020 and Lincoln Clears a Path by Peggy Thomas, will be published this January. Stacy’s paintings and prints have been exhibited widely in NY, CA and throughout the US and abroad. He lives in Pittsburgh.

Rachel Kamin has been a synagogue librarian for over twenty years and has worked as the Director of the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, IL since 2008. She contributes articles and book reviews to BookLinks, School Library Journal, Jewish Book World, Judaica Librarianship, Library Journal and AJL Reviews. Rachel facilitates the Sisterhood Book Club at NSS Beth El and also leads book discussions at several synagogues and organizations across the Chicago area. She is currently a member of the AJL Fiction Award Committee and the co-chair of the 2020 AJL Conference.

Eitan Kensky is the Reinhard Family Curator of Judaica and Hebraica collections at Stanford. He previously worked at the Yiddish Book Center as the Director of Collections Initiatives, and at Harvard University as the Preceptor in Yiddish. He co-founded In geveb, the online, open access journal of Yiddish Studies, and served as President of the Board of In geveb from 2014-2019. Kensky received his PhD in Jewish Studies from Harvard University.

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Adam Kirsch is the author of Who Wants to Be a Jewish Writer? (Yale University Press) and The People and the Books: Eighteen Classics of Jewish Literature (WW Norton), among other books. He is an editor at the Wall Street Journal and a regular contributor to Tablet, the New Yorker and other publications.

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Jean-Claude Kuperminc is head of the library and archives of the Alliance israélite universelle in Paris. He has created the RACHEL Network of Judaica and Hebraica Libraries in Paris.

Susan Kusel is a synagogue librarian and author. She was on the 2015 Caldecott Medal committee and is the past chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award.

Amalia S. Levi is an archivist, and the founding director of The HeritEdge Connection, a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting people, resources, and institutions through cultural heritage projects. Amalia has conducted digitization projects through various grants. Previously, she completed the archival processing and digitization of the records of the Synagogue Restoration Project in Bridgetown, Barbados. Amalia holds an MLS with a concentration in archives, an MA in history with a concentration in Jewish studies, and an MA in museum studies. Amalia is interested in augmenting and facilitating historical scholarship on diasporas by linking and enriching dispersed collections through digital tools and linked data.

Julie Koven Levine is the librarian at The Rashi School in Dedham, MA, a K-8 Jewish day school affiliated with the Reform Movement. In addition to library literacy skills, she teaches technology, digital citizenship, and media literacy lessons across all grades. She has previously been the Reference/Cataloging Librarian at the American Jewish Historical Society in New York, NY; the librarian at Gann Academy in Waltham, MA; and Systems Librarian at Ave Maria School of Law in Naples, FL.

Rebecca Levitan holds a BA in history and Judaic studies from Binghamton University, and an MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a full-time librarian at the Pikesville Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library in Baltimore, MD. She is currently the Sydney Taylor Book Award Chair and a council member of AJL. As a mom of two young girls (and one on the way) she is passionate about quality Jewish literature. Rebecca is also an avid knitter and can often be found working on a shawl that she will likely not wear because it is too warm in Baltimore most of the year.

David B. Levy received a PhD in Jewish philosophy, Biblical Exegesis, and Rabbinics in 2000 from BHU; an MLS from UMCP in 2004; MA in Jewish studies from BHU in 1992; and a BA cum laude from Haverford College in 1990. David is an autodidact whose Maimonidean mission is the quest for hokmah, binah, vedas, in search of intellectual-ethical-spiritual virtue, a life of the mind that recognizes that the link between humans and Hashem is the sekel hapeol.

Lauren Margolin is a book reviewer, blogger, creator of goodbookfairy.com and a reputable book influencer. She has reviewed hundreds of books and gives honest and relatable opinions, which has built her a loyal and trusted following. Lauren’s connections with authors, publishers and industry reps, as well as fellow readers, make her speaking engagements entertaining, enlightening and informative. She loves all things regarding reading and the appreciation of books. However, when she’s not reading, reviewing and keeping up with her online presence, she enjoys canasta, cooking and spending time with her family.

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Louis (Chaim) Meiselman is the Judaica Special Collections Cataloging Librarian at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries. He is tasked with cataloging and researching rare printed books, manuscripts, ritual art, ephemera and broadsides, and art books. Louis catalogs in Hebrew, Yiddish, Aramaic, Ladino/Judezmo, and Judeo-Arabic/Judeo-Persian. Previously, he has worked at cataloging rare Hebrew and Yiddish books at the Baltimore Hebrew University Collection at Towson University, 16th century Hebrew books at The Library of Congress, and Rabbi Jacob Ruderman and Rabbi Jacob Weinberg's collection of Rare Hebrew Books at the Ner Israel Rabbinical College in Baltimore.

Yisrael Meyerowitz is a graduate of Ner Israel Rabbinical College (Baltimore, MD). He earned an MLIS (Drexel University) and an MA in Jewish Studies (Gratz College). His rabbinical ordination was conferred by Rabbi Yosef Geldzahler of Monsey, NY. Yisrael worked previously as a librarian at Gratz College and at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He joined the Israel and Judaica Section of the Library of Congress in
Makena Mezistrano is the Assistant Director of the Sephardic Studies Program at the University of Washington. She has spent the last two years working to unify the Sephardic Studies Digital Collection catalog as the SSP expands its growing collection of Ladino books. Her other duties at the SSP include digital content creation, event coordinating and fundraising. She holds an MA in Jewish studies from Yeshiva University and brings a personal passion to her work as a Sephardic Jew with family roots in Salonica, Greece.

Yael Netzer has a PhD in computer science and an MA in Hebrew literature at Ben Gurion University. She is a teaching fellow in BGU and Haifa University, teaches Digital Humanities for Computer Science and for the Humanities, and works at Dicta, the Israeli Center for Text Analysis. In recent years, Netzer has developed and implemented methods for digital personal archives, and is most interested in knowledge representation for archives, libraries and more.

Ekaterina Oleshkevich holds BA and MA degrees in Jewish studies from the Lomonosov Moscow State University. From 2013, she has been working in the Schneerson library (a branch of the Russian State Library, Moscow) as chief librarian and research fellow. From 2018, she has been a PhD student at Bar Ilan University, Israel, where she won the President’s Scholarship. She is working on her dissertation “History, Culture and the Experience of Jewish Childhood in late Imperial Russia.”

Sofiya Pasternack grew up surrounded by goats, and as an adult pets the neighbor’s goats through the fence even though she probably shouldn’t. When she’s not doing psychotherapy with her patients, she can be found enjoying Utah’s wild places, teaching her kids to make challah and defending nice dragons. She should definitely be reading right now. Her debut novel Anya and the Dragon and its sequel Anya and the Nightingale are kind of about Jewish farm girl Anya, and kind of about a dragon, but are mostly about Anya’s favorite goat, Zvezda. Find Sofiya at www.sofiapasternack.com or on twitter @sofipasternack.

Amy Pine, a teen librarian by day and a romance writer by night, can’t seem to escape the world of fiction, and she wouldn't have it any other way. When she finds that 25th hour in the day, she might indulge in a bit of Netflix and Hulu, nourishing her undying love of vampires, superheroes, and a certain high-functioning sociopath detective. She hails from the far-off galaxy of the Chicago suburbs where she resides with her two amazing kids and three little devils disguised as cats.

Nathan Putnam is the Director of Metadata Quality at OCLC and oversees the teams of specialists working on data integrity and quality for the WorldCat bibliographic database, knowledge base, and registry. He has over fifteen years of cataloging experience working in multiple academic libraries as cataloger and manager and enjoys discussing cataloging trends and issues with the wider metadata community.

Heidi Rabinowitz is the Director of the Feldman Children's Library at Congregation B'nai Israel of Boca Raton, FL. She is Past President of AJL and is currently serving as Member Relations Chair and as a member of the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee. Since 2005, she has hosted The Book of Life, a podcast about Jewish books, music, film and web at www.bookoflifepodcast.com.

Rosalind Reisner is a former librarian, author of Jewish American Literature: A Guide to Reading Interests, which won the AJL Reference Award in 2004. She was a member of the first Sophie Brody Medal committee and chaired the reading committee of Great Group Reads for six years. Rosalind speaks and writes about Jewish literature and Readers' Advisory services.

Kepa J. Rodriguez (PhD) is an independent consultant in the fields of NLP/Data Science and Knowledge Representation. He has been involved in projects related to the use of controlled vocabularies for multilingual data integration and retrieval at the EHRI project, State and University Library of Goettingen (Germany) and Yad Vashem (Israel).
Sinai Rusinek teaches Digital Humanities at Haifa University’s Digital Humanities program and works at Elijah Lab digital humanities laboratory at Haifa University where she is currently leading TraveLab - a project on Digitized Journeys to the Holy Land. Her project Kima, a Hebrew, historical gazetteer, assembles geographical toponyms used throughout Jewish history into an open, linked data resource and tool. Her project “DIJEST: Digitizing Jewish Studies”, was supported by a grant from the Rothschild Europe foundation.

Laura Schutzman has been the librarian at the Hebrew Academy of Nassau County in Uniondale, NY for the past eight years. She has been a member of the AJL Council as Publications Chair since 2016. She also writes for the AJL Reviews. Laura holds a BA in Judaic studies and music from Yeshiva University and an MLIS from Pratt Institute. She has been a member of the AJL Jewish Fiction Award for the last year and will be taking over as committee chair in June 2020.

Sylvie Shaffer is the preK-8 librarian at the Capitol Hill Day School in Washington, DC and holds dual master’s degrees in library science and children's literature from Simmons University. Sylvie served on AJL’s 2019 and 2020 Sydney Taylor Book Awards committee and also on ALSC’s 2018 Geisel Committee. You can find her online at www.SylvieJulietShaffer.com.

Gail Shirazi is a librarian in the Israel and Judaica Section in the Asian and Middle Eastern Division of the Library of Congress, where she has worked for more than forty years. She specializes in Israeli acquisitions in all formats and languages. Gail holds an MLS from Catholic University, an MA from Syracuse University (Maxwell School) and a BA in political science from University of Maryland. She enjoys arranging lectures and programs in the community, co-sponsoring events with embassies, academic organizations and Jewish organizations.

Noam Sienna received his PhD in Jewish history from the University of Minnesota in May 2020. His work focuses on Jewish society and material culture in the Islamic world. His dissertation explored Jewish book culture in early modern North Africa. He is the editor of A Rainbow Thread: An Anthology of Queer Jewish Texts from the First Century to 1969 (Print-O-Craft, 2019).

Lisa Silverman is the director of the Sperber Jewish Community Library, located at American Jewish University. She is also National Conference Chairperson for AJL and co-editor of the AJL Reviews for Children and Youth.

Sheryl Stahl is the Director of the Frances-Henry Library at the Los Angeles Campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She is an active member of AJL and has served two terms each as Vice President of Membership and as Treasurer. Sheryl currently serves as the AJL webmaster. This past year, she presented a webinar on behalf of AJL and ALA on cataloging Jewish sacred texts and another on cataloging Jewish history. Sheryl is currently a member of the AJL Fiction Award Committee.

Debbie Steinberg is currently the Director of the LRC at Ida Crown Jewish Academy in Chicago. She has a master’s in library and information science from Dominican University. Debbie has spent more than ten years introducing children and young adults to literature and information literacy at schools and public libraries. She is the author of Jelly Bean’s Art Museum Adventure and is honored to have been a member of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee.

Daniel D. Stuhlman has been a librarian for more than 45 years. Currently, he is an academic librarian for a public college and a synagogue. Daniel does consulting work for Hebraica and Yiddica cataloging and writes the blog, Kol Safran. He taught for several library schools. He has a BHL from Jewish Theological Seminary; an MSLS from Columbia University; and an MHL and DHL from Jewish University of America.
Joni Sussman is the Publisher at Kar-Ben Publishing, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group. Kar-Ben’s concentration is Jewish content books for children and young readers, both fiction and non-fiction for preschool through 7th grade, including holiday books, life-cycle stories, Bible tales, folktales, board books, and activity books. In particular, Kar-Ben seeks stories that reflect the rich diversity of today’s Jewish family. Joni is a Past-President of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, where she continues to serve as Chair of Holocaust Education, and President of Books for Africa.

Ilana Antoinette Tahan, MPhil, OBE has been educated at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel, and at the Aston University in Birmingham, UK where she was awarded a Master of Philosophy degree. Ilana joined the British Library as Hebraica Curator in 1989. In 2002, she became Head of the Hebrew Section in charge of one of the finest Hebraic collections in the UK, comprising some 3,000 Hebrew manuscripts, c. 7,000 Genizah fragments and over 70,000 printed books. Since 2010, Ilana has been Lead Curator of Hebrew and Christian Orient Studies. In addition to being responsible for the significant British Library’s Hebraic collections, she also manages the library’s Christian Orient collections, which include the Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian, Georgian and Syriac holdings. Ilana has been the Lead Curator responsible for the smooth running and delivery of the Hebrew Manuscripts Digitisation Project, a major, externally funded project undertaken by the British Library, 2013-2020. In 2009, she was awarded the Order of the British Empire for services to scholarship.

Balázs Tamási has been Library Director and Assistant Professor at Budapest University of Jewish Studies (formerly Budapest Rabbinical Seminary) since 2016. Previous to his current positions, he served as the curator of Kaufmann Collection at the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 2011 to 2014. Prior to joining the Library of the Academy, he was Head of Department of the Collection of Posters and Printed Ephemera at the Hungarian National Library from 2008 to 2011. Tamási received his master’s degrees in history and Hebrew studies from Pázmány Péter Catholic University of Hungary, and earned his PhD there. His research focuses on late Second Temple Jewish literature, in particular Qumran and Jewish Apocrypha. His other research interests include the Hebraica and Judaica collections in Hungary. Tamási has taught Jewish history and other courses at various Hungarian universities including Budapest University of Jewish Studies, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, and Eötvös Loránd University.

Jeremiah Aaron Taub is the Head of the Israel and Judaica Section at the Library of Congress and the President of the Capital Area Chapter of AJL (AJL/CAC). Previously, he served as the Chairperson of AJL’s RAS Cataloging Committee, the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Committee, and the AJL Jewish Fiction Award Committee. Under the name Yermiyahu Ahron Taub, he is the author of the short story collection Prodigal Children in the House of G-d (2018), winner of two CIPA EVVY Merit Awards and a finalist for a Foreword INDIES Award, and six books of poetry, including A moyz tsvishn vakldike volkn-kratsers: geklibene Yidishe lider/A Mouse Among Tottering Skyscrapers: Selected Yiddish Poems (2017). His short stories have appeared in numerous publications, including Hamilton Stone Review, Jewish Fiction .net, Jewrotica, Oyster River Pages, and Second Hand Stories Podcast. With co-translator Ellen Cassedy, he was the winner of the 2012 Yiddish Book Center Translation Prize and the Modern Language Association’s 2014-2017 Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies for Oedipus in Brooklyn and Other Stories by Blume Lempel (2016). Please visit his website at www.yataub.net.

Galina Teverovsky has worked at the Library of Congress since 2002, first in the Serial Record Division, then in the Middle Eastern Acquisitions Section. She is currently a Senior Library Technician in the Israel and Judaica Section in the Asian and Middle Eastern Division. She performs acquisitions and cataloging duties and also works closely with the Acquisition Fiscal Support Office. Prior to working at the Library of Congress, Ms. Teverovsky served as a Library Assistant and Teacher’s Assistant at the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy of Greater Washington. She has resided in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area since her emigration in 1993 from the former Soviet Union.
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Kerstin von der Krone is Head of the Judaica Division at the University Library Johann Christian Senckenberg Frankfurt am Main, Goethe University. She studied in Berlin and Tel Aviv and earned her doctoral degree from the University of Erfurt in 2010. Her research has focused more broadly on modern Jewish history; she worked in particular on the Wissenschaft des Judentums movement, Jewish press and print culture, and nineteenth-century Jewish education.

Heide Warncke was born in Hamburg and studied Semitic languages at the University of Amsterdam. As a library specialist, she became project leader at the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana in Amsterdam for cataloguing the Hebraica and Judaica printed before 1850. In 2012, she started working at the library Ets Haim – Livraria Montezinos in Amsterdam and was appointed Curator of Ets Haim in 2016. Heide is currently writing a dissertation on the subject of the Amsterdam Hebrew printing industry and the impact of intellectual, economic and religious developments on Hebrew printing.

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Brian Wilson is a children's librarian at the Evanston Public Library. He served on the 2017 Caldecott Committee and blogs at Mr. Brian's Picture Book Picks. Betsy and Brian host a special annual presentation of their favorite picture books at the Evanston Public Library.

Marcin Wodzinski is Professor of Jewish history and literature, and head of the Department of Jewish Studies at the University of Wroclaw. The scope of his academic interests ranges from the social history of Jews in the 19th century to the history of Jews in Silesia and Jewish material culture, especially the history of Hasidism and Haskalah. His publications include more than one hundred articles in Polish, English, Hebrew, French and Czech, nine books authored and one co-authored, and six volumes co-edited. His publications include: Hebrew Inscriptions in Silesia from the 13th to 18th Centuries (1996); Bibliography on the History of Silesian Jewry II (2004); Haskalah and Hasidism in the Kingdom of Poland (2005); The Polish Kingdom Authority Against Hasidism (2008); and Hasidism and Politics (2013). Wodziński is the editor of the Makor Academic Series/Sources of Austeria Publishing, Bibliotheca Judaica Series at the University of Wroclaw Press, editor-in-chief of “Studia Judaica.”

Rivka Yerushalmi, in addition to serving on the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee, is the founder of the Gateway Domestic Violence Shelter Children’s Library in Aurora, CO and the WEAVE Shelter Library in Sacramento, CA. She currently works as an information specialist providing telephone and mail reference services for the National Institute on Aging/ADEAR Information Centers at NIH, and is a former content editor of the healthfinder.gov consumer health website.
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