June 27-July 1, 2021
AJL's 56th Annual Conference
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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2021 AJL Digital Conference: Moving Forward!
We learned so much from last year’s digital conference that the next few days will be overflowing with educational programs, engaging conversation, and innumerable opportunities to catch up with friends and colleagues from around the world. In fact, our international conference program, with presenters and participants from all over the world, was designed to accommodate the schedules of attendees across 13 time zones!

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 thank Rachel Ariel, Lenore Bell, Jackie Benefraim, Emily Bergman, Sean Boyle, Marcie Eskin, Elana Gensler, Dina Herbert, Rachel Kamin, Jerry Krautman, Amalia Levi, Anna Levia, Rebecca Levitan, Michelle Margolis Chesner, Heidi Rabinowitz, Gail Shirazi, Lisa Silverman for their efforts in creating a meaningful conference for us all.

There is so much to do in the days ahead, but please make time to attend the Keynote Lecture featuring Bodley’s Librarian Richard Ovenden, and the Feinstein Lecture with Dr. Shalom Sabar; learn from all our award-winning authors and illustrators; and join us in our virtual hospitality suites to meet with our remarkable Past Presidents and all your colleagues. There is so much 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. Fortunately, all sessions are being recorded for future binge-watching, so do not worry that you will miss something. All recorded programs will be available for up to one year following this year’s conference.

I look forward to seeing you throughout our second digital conference. Our plan is to all be together – in person – in Philadelphia in 2022, but for now I am excited to virtually learn with and from everyone.

L’Shalom,

Kathy Bloomfield
AJL President
Rachel Ariel
Lenore Bell
Jackie Benefraim
Emily Bergman
Sean Boyle
Kathy Bloomfield
Michelle Margolis Chesner
Marcie Eskin
Elana Gensler
Dina Herbert
Rachel Kamin
Jerry Krautman
Amalia Levi
Anna Levi
Rebecca Levitan
Heidi Rabinowitz
Gail Shirazi
Lisa Silverman
We are grateful to the following individuals and institutions for their generous support of AJL’s 2021 Digital Conference

**Gold Sponsors**
- Dan Wyman
- Dr. Greta Silver
- Eric Chaim Kline
- Jo Taylor Marshall
- Kar-Ben Publishing
- OPALS/Mediaflex

**Silver Sponsors**
- OCLC
- Posen Library
- Psik Books and Technologies Ltd.
- R. Michelson Galleries
Thank you to the following Members and Friends who generously contributed to our Annual Campaign.*

Zachary Baker  
Jackie Ben-Efraim  
Sharon Benamou  
Emily Bergman  
Yoram Bitton  
Linda and Steven Blasnik  
Kathleen Bloomfield  
Sean Boyle  
Ellen Cole  
Debbie Colodny  
Susan Dubin  
Marcie Eskin  
Ana Esterin  
Eliot Gertel  
Etta Gold  
Annette Goldsmith  
Haim Gottschalk  
Aileen Grossberg  
Kathryn Hall  
Merrily Hart  
Dina Herbert  
David Hirsch  
Corinne Kamerow  
Rachel Kamin

Eitan Kensky  
Joy Kingsolver  
Yael Klein  
Sonia Kozlovsky  
Jerry Krautman and Jackie Weiss  
Susan Kusel  
Amalia Levi  
Anna Levia  
Rebecca Levitan  
Michelle Margolis  
Heidi Rabinowitz  
Arlene Ratzabi  
Nathan Rosen  
Sylvia Rouss  
Angelica Ruiz  
Amanda Seigel  
Ellen Share  
Ms. Eileen Sherman  
Gail Shirazi  
Lisa Silverman  
Aaron Taub  
Galina Teveryovsky  
Amalia Warshenbrot  
Holly Zimmerman

*Listing as of June 9, 2021
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.

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.

ALA Liaison
The charge of the ALA Liaison is to represent AJL to and within ALA, work with both organizations to create strong inter-associational connections; collaborate on issues of mutual concern such as shared values of librarianship, diversity, and ethnic cultures; coordinate and/or work in partnership in programs of joint interest, speak for AJL at ALA affiliate functions and provide support by staffing and engaging other AJL members in also representing AJL at the Affiliates' booth at ALA Annual Conference.

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.

**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.
**SSCPL Advocacy Committee**
The SSCPL Advocacy Committee is tasked with publicizing the need for professionally staffed and adequately maintained libraries in Jewish day schools, synagogues and Jewish community centers. The committee’s purpose is to expand AJL’s role in educating administrators and those who influence SSCPL libraries’ decision-makers about the vital role Jewish libraries play in helping support their institutions and communities. AJL will continue to educate SSCPL librarians to advocate on their own behalf and help promote Judaic and Jewish Lit bibliographies with Public Libraries.

**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.

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<tr>
<th><strong>AJL BOARD 2020-2022</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President: Kathy Bloomfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past President: Dina Herbert</td>
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<td>VP/President Elect: Michelle Margolis Chesner</td>
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<td>VP Membership: Sharon Benamou</td>
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<td>VP Development: Jackie Ben-Efraim</td>
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<td>Treasurer: Holly Zimmerman</td>
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<td>Secretary: Eitan Kensky</td>
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<td>RAS President: Amalia S. Levi</td>
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<td>RAS Vice President: Anna Levi</td>
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<td>SSCPL President: Sean Patrick Boyle</td>
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<td>SSCPL Vice President: Emily Bergman</td>
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Association of Jewish Libraries  
Anti-Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation Policy

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 views and opinions expressed by presenters and attendees during AJL Conference sessions, Round Table discussions and AJL Presents workshops, and other AJL sponsored group events are their own and not necessarily those of the Association of Jewish Libraries.
THE 2021 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARDS
Sponsored by Jo Taylor Marshall

Picture Book Winner
*Welcoming Elijah: a Passover Tale with a Tail* by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Susan Gal

Middle Grade Winner
*Turtle Boy* by M. Evan Wolkenstein

Young Adult Winner
*Dancing at the Pity Party* by Tyler Feder

Picture Book Honors
*I Am the Tree of Life: My Jewish Yoga Book* by Mychal Copeland illustrated by André Ceolin
*Miriam at the River* by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Khoa Le

Middle Grade Honors
*The Blackbird Girls* by Anne Blankman
*No Vacancy* by Tziporah Cohen
*Anya and the Nightingale* by Sofiya Pasternack

Young Adult Honors
*They Went Left* by Monica Hesse

Committee Members
Chair Rebecca Levitan, Rena Citrin, Judy Ehrenstein, Toby Harris, Marjorie Ingall, Aviva Rosenberg and Martha Simpson

THE 2021 Manuscript Award Winner
*Cats and Honey Cake* by Sonja Spear

Committee Members
Chair Aileen Grossberg, Debbie Steinberg, Heather Matthews, Heidi Rabinowitz, Rachel Simon, Rebecca Fox.
2021 JUDAICA BIBLIOGRAPHY AWARD
sponsored by Mr. Eric Kline

Winner
Catalog of the Gerald K. Stone Collection of Judaica: A Bibliographical Resource for Canadian Jewish Studies
by Gerald K. Stone

2021 JUDAICA REFERENCE AWARDS
sponsored by Dr. Greta Silver

Winner
Honey on the Page: A Treasury of Yiddish Children’s Literature
by Miriam Udel

Honorable Mention
Ḥanut ye-tavit: mokhre sefarim be-Erets Yišra’el, 1870-1948
(English title: Making a Mark: Booksellers in Palestine, 1870-1948)
by Zvi Barsky

RAS Award Committee Members
Anna Levia, Stephanie Geller, Haim Gottschalk, and Gabriel Mordoch

2021 JEWISH FICTION AWARDS
sponsored by Dan Wyman

Winner
The Lost Shtetl by Max Gross

Honor Books
To Be a Man: Stories by Nicole Krauss
Apeirogon: A Novel by Colum McCann

Committee Members
Paula Breger, Beth Dwoskin, Rachel Kamin, Laura Schutzman, and Sheryl Stahl

FANNY GOLDSTEIN AWARD
Rachel Kamin

Committee Members
Chair Zachary Baker, Aileen Grossberg and Yossi Galron
AJL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
Ryan Zohar

LIBRARY ACCREDITATION

Basic and Advanced Accreditation
Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey
Esther Schnaidman, Librarian/Media Specialist

Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy Library
Wendie Sittenfield, Director of Library & Media Services

Advanced Accreditation – Renewal
Hyman Judah Schachtel Library, Congregation Beth Israel
Judy Weidman, Temple Librarian and Archives

Accreditation Committee
Chair Shaindy Kurzmann, Arlene Ratzabi, Bruchie Weinstein
The Association of Jewish Libraries is pleased to announce that longtime member Rachel Kamin has been named the 2021 Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Winner. “On behalf of the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award committee, we are proud to have been given the opportunity to honor Rachel Kamin as this year’s recipient of the Award. Over the years, Rachel has contributed so much to the Association of Jewish Libraries, to the field of Judaica librarianship, and to librarianship as a profession overall. On very short notice and under challenging circumstances, she played a pivotal role in transforming AJL’s 2020 conference from an in-person to a highly successful virtual event. Rachel’s passionate devotion to public service is a model for us all, and she truly personifies the values and legacy of the Award’s namesake, Fanny Goldstein.” said committee chair Zachary Baker.

Rachel Kamin has been a synagogue librarian for over 20 years and is currently the Director of the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, Illinois. She serves on the Association of Jewish Libraries Jewish Fiction Award Committee and contributes articles and book reviews to BookLinks, School Library Journal, Jewish Book World, Judaica Librarianship, Library Journal, and AJL Reviews. She contributed a chapter on recommended children’s books to The Tot Shabbat Handbook: A Practical Guide for Engaging Young Families in Congregational Life edited by Paula Feldstein (URJ Press, 2010) and co-authored a chapter about Jewish children’s literature for Reading and Teaching with Diverse Nonfiction Children’s Books: Representations and Possibilities, to be published in the summer of 2021 by the National Council for Teachers of English. She facilitates book discussions for five Chicago area synagogues as well as for other organizations and private groups. Rachel holds a BA in history from Grinnell College and a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Michigan.

In addition, Rachel has been a member of AJL for at least 20 years and has attended the AJL Conference regularly. After the decision was made to not hold the conference live in Chicago in 2020 as planned, Rachel restructured the face-to-face conference that she had planned, into AJL’s first Virtual Conference. This year, Rachel is coordinating all the programming for the 2021 Virtual Conference and working with the planning committee to ensure that the divisions get the program they desire. This year, she has also been moderating AJL’s “Serving Students’ Virtual Roundtable and facilitated the Purim book discussion.

Since the spring of 2020, Rachel has delivered over twenty Zoom presentations on Jewish fiction for Hadassah, the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism, American Jewish University, and the Judaica Network of Metropolitan Chicago, as well as for synagogues and Jewish groups across the country. She also facilitates book discussions for five Chicago area synagogues as well as for other organizations and private groups.

In addition to all of the above, Rachel has been the chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee, continues to provide Bibliography for the AJL Bibliography files, and recently accepted the position as AJL’s representative on ALA’s Sophie Brody Award Committee. Overall, Rachel lends her hand and expertise whenever a volunteer is needed. She is an outstanding representative for AJL.

Members of the 2021 Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Committee
Come meet conference participants with new books coming out in 2021 and 2022.

**Tracy Brown** - *Sarah’s Solo*

**Alexandra Dunietz** – *From Sarah to Sydney: The Woman Behind All-of-a-Kind Family*

**Dr. Alison L. Joseph** - *The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization Volume 1: Ancient Israel, from Its Beginnings through 332 BCE*

**Jacqueline Jules** - *Manna in the Morning*

**Kathy Kacer** - *Under the Iron Bridge*

**Barbara Krasner** - *37 Days at Sea: Aboard the MS St. Louis, 1939*

**Mirta Kupferminc** - *Bear Witness / Testimonio Para El Testigo*

**David B. Levy** - *Essays and explorations in the enigmatic, esoteric, mystical based on sources in rabbinic texts as fontes (2 vols)*

**Joanne Levy** - *Sorry for Your Loss*

**Alice McGinty** - *My Israel and Me* (presented by Lili Rosenstreich)

**Stacy Nockowitz** - *The Prince of Steel Pier*

**Judith Pranksy** - *The Seventh Handmaiden*

**Caroline Kusin Pritchard** - *Gitty and Kvetch*

**Lois Ruby** - *Eddie Whatever*

**Julie Sternberg** - *Summer of Stolen Secrets*
**Sunday, June 27**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11-11:45 a.m. EDT</td>
<td>Newcomers Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-1:30 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Feinstein Lecture: Dr. Shalom Sabar</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-3:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>SSCPL Division Meeting</td>
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<td>RAS Division Meeting</td>
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<td>3:45-5 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>AJL General Membership Meeting</td>
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<td>Fannie Goldstein Award &amp; AJL Directory</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>A Little Schmooze and BYO Nosh</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Virtual Hospitality Suite</td>
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**Monday, June 28**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-10:15 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>Advocacy Through Influence</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Vendor Roundtable: RAS</td>
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<td>2:45-4 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Managing the Synagogue Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>How to Nurture a Meaningful Career in Jewish Education</td>
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<td>7 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Author Showcase</td>
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**Tuesday, June 29**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-10:15 a.m. EDT</td>
<td>From Sarah to Sydney: The Woman Behind All-of-a-Kind Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Sydney Taylor Honorees and Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45-4 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Accreditation: Kind of a Big Deal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Judaic Perspectives, Public Spaces</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Book Discussion: <em>The Lost Shtetl</em> by Max Gross</td>
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### Wednesday, June 30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-10:15 a.m. EDT</td>
<td>Reader Tested, Parent Approved</td>
<td>North, South, East and West: Tracing Provenance Around the World</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Thirty Years of the Russian Library in Jerusalem</td>
<td>Discoveries in the Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>AJL Jewish Fiction Award: Meet the 2021 Winners</td>
<td>Cataloging: Romanization, Backlogs, and SNACs to Go with Them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45-4 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Recommended Reads from the AJL Fiction Award Committee</td>
<td>Updates from the Library of Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Vendor Roundtable: SSCPL</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Storytime Showcase</td>
<td>Film Event: <em>The Last Cyclist</em></td>
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### Thursday, July 1

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-10:15 a.m. EDT</td>
<td>Updates from the National Library of Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Jewish Women Who Changed the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Keynote Address: Richard Ovenden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45-4 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Holocaust Education Promoting Civic Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Virtual Hospitality Suite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Game Night!</td>
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</table>
SUNDAY, JUNE 27

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

NEWCOMERS WELCOME
Moderator: Heidi Rabinowitz

Get the most out of your first 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.

12:00-1:30 p.m. EDT

FEINSTEIN LECTURE
Moderator: Eitan Kensky

The Hidden Treasures of Jewish Ephemera
Dr. Shalom Sabar

Should we preserve, research, and display only precious works of art, rare manuscripts and “officially” printed books in the fields that concern us? In this lecture, Dr. Sabar will present the case for treating ephemera in general and Jewish ephemera in particular as invaluable resources for exploring and learning our past and present cultures. The items created to “last only one day” open wide vistas to our society, revealing information that is often not available or accessible in other handwritten or printed resources. Thus, for example, Rosh ha-Shanah cards, extant (those that were luckily not thrown away) from the 19th century on, display a wide range of visual ideas and ideals that practically change on a year-by-year basis. Many other categories of Judaic ephemera, such as Simchat Torah flags, kosher wine labels, single-page amulets, wedding invitations, sukkah decorations, benchers, holiday pamphlets, Hanukkah candle boxes, and illustrated postcards, present the richness of Jewish culture, the varieties of daily life in many communities and countries, the ever-changing ideologies, and are abundant with captivating imagery by generally anonymous designers and artists. We will also examine some of the strategies of how to get such items and build a significant collection, that hopefully will also serve future generations.
2:00-3:15 p.m. EDT

SSCPL DIVISION MEETING
Moderator: Sean Boyle

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, so 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.

3:45-5:00 p.m. EDT

AJL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Moderator: Kathy Bloomfield

An overview of AJL Board and Council accomplishments for the past year and what is in store for 2021-2022 will be discussed. Heidi Rabinowitz will present the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award to Rachel Kamin and Yahm Rechart will provide information about the next phase of the AJL Directory Taskforce’s project to promote the visibility and accessibility of Jewish libraries and archives.

Enhancing the Visibility and Accessibility of Jewish Collections

Yahm Rechart

This presentation is the next phase of the AJL Directory Taskforce’s project to promote the visibility and accessibility of Jewish libraries and archives. The goal of this project is two-fold. First, to offer a geographic framework to find collections held by our member institutions. Second, to share details about well-known and lesser-known Judaica collections to AJL members and non-members. After collecting data about various collections and institutions, it was time to turn that information into usable visualizations. The presentation will showcase a visually-accessible, interactive map that will ultimately be available on AJL’s website for general use.
SUNDAY

5:00 p.m. EDT

A LITTLE SCHMOOZE AND BYO NOSH
Moderator: Kathy Bloomfield

As an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), AJL has been hosting small gatherings during the ALA Midwinter and Annual Conferences for the last two years. While the pandemic has caused us to hold these gatherings virtually (thus BYO Nosh), they are a lot of fun and very interesting. This is a great networking opportunity for any AJL member interested in learning more about ALA and vice versa. Come meet members of AJL’s Board and Council, network with librarians from around the country, and listen to publishers and authors discuss their upcoming work.

7:00 p.m. EDT

VIRTUAL HOSPITALITY SUITE

Pop in to chat with past AJL Presidents and connect with other conference attendees in a casual, informal environment.
MONDAY, JUNE 28

9:00-10:15 a.m. EDT

INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANS’ ROUNDTABLE
Moderator: Michael Young

Meet 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

ADVOCACY THROUGH INFLUENCE
Moderator: Emily Bergman

Learn how to use the Reference Interview as the process that allows you to grow as an Influencer in your larger organization. This session will be directed to school, synagogue and center libraries, but can also be applied to other settings. We will start by quickly reviewing the AJL Advocacy Toolkit and highlight how AJL Accreditation greatly helps with advocacy. We will then review how to perform a successful Reference Interview and demonstrate how you can apply the same skills to help influence decision makers to support the Library.

DIGITIZATION AND ADDED VALUE
Moderator: Kerstin van der Krone

Moving Forward: Practical Applications of Digital Archival Collections
Julie Chervinsky

The Blavatnik Archive comprises over 113,000 items across sixteen collections that contribute to the study of modern Jewish history, with a special emphasis on World War I, World War II, and Soviet Russia. Recognizing the fundamental need for fully virtual and free access to collections in the evolving world of digital scholarship and education, as well as the opportunity of emerging technology to enrich the research and discovery experience for scholars, educators and public audiences, the Blavatnik Archive launched the development of blavatnikarchive.org in 2012. Currently, 12,200 items are freely available and downloadable online, in a high resolution, metadata-rich environment, with uniquely intuitive and engaging visual presentation. Item formats include video testimonies, postcards, photographs, posters, drawings, illustrations, diaries, letters, state-issued documents, leaflets, periodicals, stamps, currency and books. Through its item-based infrastructure, more than 5,500 primary sources presented are fully cataloged, providing descriptions, transcripts, translations, geography and subject metadata, and full and segmented video players. As a member of the IIIF consortium, the Archive delivers the highest possible zoom and image quality, cross institutional information sharing, and image-based annotation tools. Moreover, the website allows users to curate their own content and share
records or entire folders with other individuals or groups. The presentation will introduce the many discovery tools available and share the Archive’s experience of the website’s development to date and future plans.

Preserving German-Jewish News
Tracey Felder
The LBI Library has a collection of nearly 1,600 German-Jewish newspapers published from the Enlightenment through the 20\textsuperscript{th} century, including periodicals from before and after the Holocaust. Many of these periodicals were part of the Institute’s original collection. In 2011, the Library began a project to digitize and better preserve its historical periodical collection, much of which had become too fragile for physical handling. The many challenges of this project included collating issues, updating bibliographic records for split entries, and coordinating among different team members. A new phase began in 2017, when LBI began digitizing in color in cooperation with the Center for Jewish History and in coordination with Compact Memory.

Providing Context: Initiatives that are Enriching Jewish Digital Content
Dov Winer
Digitized Jewish contents are increasingly available, aggregated and accessible to users and programs anywhere, at any time. The use of such resources for education, research, and storytelling depends on providing a richer context for them. This paper reaches out to the community of Jewish librarians and archives to increase their awareness of relevant sources of enrichment for Jewish digital contents. We review and compare several initiatives: Judaica Europeana, which aggregates, enriches and provides access to more than 700K records; the JudaicaLink knowledge base that unambiguously identifies relevant entities and provides as much information as possible on them from Jewish encyclopedias; the large trove of projects powered by Sefaria.

1:00-2:15 p.m. EDT

VENDOR ROUNDTABLE: RAS
Moderator: Jackie Ben-Efraim

Meet exhibitors and vendors who provide books and services for research libraries, archives, and special collections. Discuss your concerns about the future of publishing and distribution, online access and platform adaptability. Participants will receive special offers and be eligible for exclusive giveaways. All are welcome!

BECOMING VISIBLE
Moderator: Anne Dublin

Christopher Baron and Carol Coven Grannick
Many Jewish tweens and young adolescents (ages 8-12) experience body image conflict, fat shaming and diet-caused disordered eating, but Jewish and secular MG lit historically portrays fat children with common stereotypes and as “sidekicks”. Chris Baron’s \textit{All of Me} and Carol Coven Grannick’s \textit{Reeni’s Turn} embed size/weight inclusivity and the impact of diet culture on young children in their stories. Their protagonists are non-thin Jewish children navigating heroes'
journeys, influenced and impacted by their Jewish identities, and upending historical stereotypes. The authors discuss why and how they created these stories, and provide guidelines that support size/weight inclusivity in MG Jewish literature. Curriculum/Discussion Guides are included.

THE FUTURE OF COLLECTIONS  
Moderator: Haim Gottschalk

Guidelines and Resources for Developing a Comprehensive Collection for the Study of Holocaust Music  
Kellie Brown
Music played a vital role in the history of the Jewish people, and during the Holocaust, music served as a means of solace, a catalyst for spiritual resistance, and as an agent of resilience. Music also helped narrate and document the Jewish experience. Instruments, musical manuscripts and scraps of paper with song lyrics sometimes survived to tell their stories when the people did not. For Holocaust researchers and educators today, music of that time offers a living artifact with which to foster scholarly inquiry and design relevant curriculum. This presentation will provide guidelines and resources for creating a comprehensive collection of materials, including books, manuscripts and multimedia, needed for Holocaust music study.

YAIR: Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repository: Highlights from the First Three Years (2018-2021)  
Stephanie Gross
The Yeshiva Academic Institutional Repositio (YAIR) was established per Strategic Plans of the past five years. Although it was conceived in part to support tenure-track faculty publication using open-access Creative Commons licenses, the focus has changed. Faculty have shown a preference for other venues, and so the IR has become a popular and much-appreciated platform for student publications, as well as academic output by both faculty and niche institutes and cross-cultural initiatives. Beyond theses and dissertations, the IR adds, on a weekly basis, videos and podcasts, as well as scholarly reviews and professional expertise columns. The IR is hosted on Dura Space’s DSpace.

The Future of the Print Book at ASU: Implications for Judaica Collections Rachel Leket-Mor
Aided by a three-year Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant (2018–2020), the Arizona State University Library undertook an innovative project designed to reinvent the print collection of research libraries. Curatorial preparations for the project were based on data-driven methods and communication with ASU user communities, and resulted in significantly reduced, yet thoughtfully designed, open stack collections. Spread across the five-story renovated Hayden Library, the curated collections are planned to inspire users’ work within library spaces and engage them with books and book culture. Rachel will share project processes and insights, and offer ways in which ASU’s Future of Print project may be replicated in Jewish Studies collections.
2:45-4:00 p.m. EDT

MANAGING THE SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY
Moderator: Judy Petersen

Rachel Kamin, Susan Kusel and Heidi Rabinowitz
Synagogue libraries are unique and require many specialized procedures: working with clergy, faculty, staff, lay leaders and volunteers; supporting preschool, religious schools and camp; maintaining a budget and online catalog; providing reference services; selecting, purchasing and cataloging materials; running book clubs and events; Shabbat book check-outs; unwanted donations and more. Learn about best practices from three experienced librarians and discover new ways to be successful despite limited funds, hours or support. No matter the size of your collection or whether you’re a newbie, a seasoned veteran, a paid professional or a volunteer, you’ll come away with useful tips and tools to keep your library relevant, valued and appreciated. Learn about best practices with three experienced synagogue librarians: Rachel Kamin (North Suburban Synagogue Beth El), Susan Kusel (Temple Rodef Shalom), and Heidi Rabinowitz (Congregation B’nai Israel).

MANAGING THE DAY SCHOOL LIBRARY
Moderator: Sean Boyle

Sarah Feldman, Julie Koven Levine, Esther Schnaidman, and Bruchie Weinstein
Covid-19 protocols have impacted the way schools and specifically, school libraries have operated since reopening their doors in the Fall of 2020. This session will discuss some of the ways four school librarians have made adjustments and have implemented new solutions in order to reach and teach their students - from library lessons to offering book exchange. Panelists will include reflections on what worked and which adaptations will remain integrated into their library programs going forward. The four veteran school librarians are: Sarah Feldman (Gann Academy), Julie Koven Levine (The Rashi School), Esther Schnaidman (Rosenbaum Yeshiva) and Bruchie Weinstein (Magen David Yeshivah High School).

COVID-19:
DOCUMENTING THE MOMENT AND CONTINUING TO PROVIDE ACCESS
Moderator: Stefanie Halpern

Documenting the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Conservative Jewish Experience at the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary
Elizabeth Kobert
This presentation will focus on the creation and publication of a digital archive documenting the COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of the Conservative Jewish community. Components of the archive include solicited submissions from JTS students, staff and alumni and members of JTS affiliate organizations; websites collected on Archive-It from JTS, its affiliates, and over 500 synagogues affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism; and JTS institutional records and communications. The presentation will include a discussion of the successes and challenges of this project, as well as highlights from the collection.
Archiving the ‘Now’
Deena Schwimmer
This presentation will examine various challenges that archivists encounter in creating collections of rapidly developing current events or crises, portrayed from the context of Yeshiva University Archives’ initiative to collect materials documenting how Orthodox (primarily) Jewish communal institutions have adapted and functioned during the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus will be on how well-suited existing archival methodologies and tools are for such projects, improved strategies that are needed, and lessons learned by Yeshiva’s team, emphasizing approaches to archival appraisal and working with born-digital materials in many formats, as well as issues of diversity and inclusion particular to collecting within the Orthodox community.

Collecting Together
Lincoln Mullen & John Turner
In 2020, the Center for History and New Media (CHNM) at George Mason University formed a partnership with six Jewish institutions to create American Jewish Life, which collects and displays materials related to American Judaism during the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, we designed Collecting These Times, a web portal that connects contributors and researchers to a much broader array of institutions. Both projects utilize a partnership collecting strategy. While they include a way for members of the public to make contributions, they rely on partners to reach specific constituencies. One early name for this project was Collecting Together, the idea that only institutions working together can adequately document and interpret these times.

5:00 p.m. EDT

HOW TO NURTURE A MEANINGFUL CAREER IN JEWISH EDUCATION
Moderator: Linda Blasnik

Rabbi Aharon Assaraf
In this session, Rabbi Aharon Assaraf will give insight into recent hiring trends in Jewish education, along with tips and techniques for navigating the market. Librarians are educators, and as such, have many opportunities within the field of Jewish education. As part of the TalentEducators team whose mission is to recruit and retain Jewish educators, Rabbi Assaraf is uniquely placed to help you find the right position for you, as well as provide funding to help you gain the skills required for the position.

7:00 p.m. EDT

AUTHOR SHOWCASE
Moderator: Ellen Drucker-Albert

Come meet conference participants with new books coming out in 2021 and 2022. See page 16 for the list of authors.
TUESDAY, JUNE 29

9:00-10:15 a.m. EDT

FROM SARAH TO SYDNEY: THE WOMAN BEHIND ALL-OF-A-KIND FAMILY
Moderator: Chava Pinchuck

**Alexandra Dunietz**
In the recently published biography of Sydney Taylor, *From Sarah to Sydney: The Woman Behind All-of-a-Kind Family*, the late June Cummins paid close attention to how libraries shaped Taylor's thinking about moral and civic development and how they impelled her to write stories with positive Jewish characters. Not only did libraries and librarians figure in Taylor's books, but they also played a significant role in her success. Along with the public school and the Henry Street Settlement House, the New York Public Library provided a framework for the child Sarah and the adult Sydney. After Taylor won the second annual Charles W. Follett Award in children's literature for *All-of-a-Kind Family* in 1951, she became a celebrity among librarians for her positive portrayal of “Kathy the Library Lady” and for championing public libraries in her speeches and school visits. In this talk, Alexandra will focus on June's portrayal of Taylor's relationship to libraries, while also discussing the book as a whole and saying a few words about June, a dear friend to many of us.

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

A CAT AND A TURTLE GO TO A PARTY!
Moderators: Rebecca Levitan and Aileen Grossberg

Meet the Winners of the 2021 Sydney Taylor Book Awards: Lesléa Newman & Susan Gal (*Welcoming Elijah: A Passover Tale with a Tail*), M. Evan Wolkenstein (*Turtle Boy*) and Tyler Feder (*Dancing at the Pity Party*).

Sonja Spear will receive the 2021 Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award for *Cats and Honey Cake*.

RAS AWARDS: THE AJL JUDAICA REFERENCE AWARD AND THE JUDAICA BIBLIOGRAPHY AWARD
Moderator: Anna Levia

**Reference Award**
Udel, Miriam. *Honey on the Page: A Treasury of Yiddish Children’s Literature*. Forward by Jack Zipes. New York: NYU Press, 2020. *Honey on the Page* (title and charming cover illustration notwithstanding) is a scholarly work that will serve as an important reference for researchers in numerous fields, not least of which is the burgeoning study of children's literature. The notes on translation will be of great interest to scholars of Yiddish. And of course, children, both at home and in religious schools, will also enjoy the stories!
Bibliography Award

Honorary Mention (Reference):
Barsky, Zvi. Ḥanut ye-taṿit: mokḥre sefarim be-Ērets Yiśra’el, 1870-1948 (English title: *Making a Mark: Booksellers in Palestine, 1870-1948*). Jerusalem: Mi-neged hotsa’ah la-or, 2019. Ḥanut ye-taṿit (Making a Mark) is a powerful reference tool not just for librarians, but also for researchers as well as for booksellers themselves. At the same time, it reads as a narrative of the adventures and misadventures of book traders in Palestine (Yehezkel Steimatzky among them) before the establishment of the State of Israel. This beautiful work will entertain experts and amateurs alike.

For their commitment and continuing support of these awards, AJL would like to recognize and thank Dr. Greta Silver of New York (Reference Award) and Mr. Eric Kline of Santa Monica (Bibliography Award).

1:00-2:15 p.m. EDT

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Honored to Make Your Acquaintance
Moderator: Rebecca Levitan

Meet the 2021 Sydney Taylor Honor Award Winners: Mychal Copeland & André Ceolin (*I Am the Tree of Life: My Jewish Yoga Book*) and Jane Yolen & Khoa Le (*Miriam at the River*); Sofiya Pasternack (*Anya and the Nightingale*), Tziporah Cohen (*No Vacancy*) and Anne Blankman (*The Blackbird Girls*); and Monica Hesse (*They Went Left*). Get acquainted with the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee, too: Rena Citrin, Judy Ehrenstein, Marjorie Ingall, Rebecca Levitan, Aviva Rosenberg, Martha Simpson and Toby Harris.

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Jewish Studies in the Digital Environment
Moderator: Rebecca Jefferson

Letters from the Public in Support of a Refugee Camp in the U.S. at Oswego, NY (1944)
*Abby Gondek*

Abby will explain how she developed a large data set for the 3000+ letters from the public in support of the “Emergency Refugee Shelter” at Fort Ontario in Oswego, NY. These are available on the FDR Library’s search portal, Franklin, in the curated collection “Digitized Documents Related to the Holocaust.” Abby will demonstrate how she visualized the data from the letters (using Tableau Public) tracking key patterns related to the senders and the content of the letters (individual/organization, gender, if the letter mentions Jews). "Datafication" of these digital
archival Holocaust-related materials enables researchers, educators and the public to systematically search the content and track themes across the entire set of letters.

**Redeeming Captives: Adventures in Ensuring Accessibility of Library Digital Resources**  
*Russel Neiss*

Many of our institutions recognize that the resources we provide should be readily, equally and equitably accessible to all library users. At the same time, many of our digital collections are artificially locked down prohibiting those users from accessing those materials and using them as they desire. This session explores several real world examples where Sefaria engineers have had to circumvent these artificial barriers and liberate content already in the public domain (but not fully available to users), and offers suggestions and best practices to institutions regarding access of digital collections.

**Use of Overhead Camera for Engagement in The Virtual Space**  
*Yedida Kanfer*

This workshop will demonstrate how to use an overhead camera to share visual materials over Zoom. With a real-time image or livestream (as opposed to a picture or slide), the facilitator can orient the camera to different aspects of the item, allowing for closer engagement. For example, at a recent virtual program hosted by the JFCS Holocaust Center, a participant viewing a Nazi-era Jewish armband asked whether there was anything on the inside. The facilitator oriented the camera to reveal a registration number on the inner seam. This session will offer practical advice on using overhead cameras (e.g., how to stream over Zoom, best lighting) and discuss tools for engaging students and other audiences in interactive discussion.

**2:45-4:00 p.m. EDT**

**ACCREDITATION: KIND OF A BIG DEAL**  
*Moderator: Sean Boyle*

*Shaindy Kurzmann, Sean Boyle, Ana Esterin and Arlene Ratzabi*

Come and learn from the AJL Accreditation Committee why AJL Accreditation is a big deal for you and your library. Get an overview of the Basic and Advanced Accreditation processes, and the types of policies/best practices that the committee is looking for. Hear from AJL members that have just recently earned their library’s accreditation, and ask them and committee members all the questions you have concerning how to get your library accredited, too.

** LEGENDS OF THE JEWISH ROOM OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
*Moderator: Aaron Taub*

**This Lonely, Eccentric Person: Abraham S. Freidus at the Library and in the Public Sphere**  
*Zachary Baker*

Abraham S. Freidus was the first Chief of NYPL’s Jewish Division. His many accomplishments are summarized in the thick volume that was published in his memory. He was also a habitué of the Café Royal, the ‘Yiddish actors’ and ‘writers’ watering hole. Jewish scholars and journalists
showered Freidus with the kind of attention that today’s librarians could only dream of. Zachary’s presentation will highlight the position that “this lonely, eccentric person” (as Leonard Singer Gold has characterized him) occupied in the public sphere, as reflected in journalism, scholarship, memoirs, and even caricatures in the popular press. It will also offer some thoughts concerning the legacy of Freidus and his peers, to Judaica librarianship in the 21st-century.

**The Impact of the Dorot Jewish Division’s Collections on Shaping Jewish Studies Scholarship**

**Amanda Siegel**

The “Jewish Room” at The New York Public Library has historically served as an important public space for scholars, authors, and cultural figures. It is more than a physical room; it is a space where new scholarship is created, and a space where great minds meet. Scholars use the collection to create works that themselves become part of the collection, and in turn these works inspire new scholarship. Explore some of the notable personalities and works that found a home here, from the division’s inception to the present, and learn how the Dorot Jewish Division is continuing this legacy.

**Introduction to the History of the Dorot Jewish Division of the New York Public Library and Its Treasure**

**Ludmilla Sholokhova**

The Jewish Division was founded as a distinctive part of the New York Public Library in 1897. For nearly 125 years of its existence, the Division established itself as one of the finest Judaica libraries in the world. Magnitude of its collections is a mirror of intellectual history of the Jews in New York City and in the US. Rich collections of medieval manuscripts, incunabula, early books from 16th and 17th centuries, the Jewish press archive are complemented by solid collections of books in Judeo-Arabic and Ladino, as well as rare Christian publications on Old Testament and Judaism. The Jewish Division is also a home for many important Jewish archival collections. The presentation will focus on the history of the Division and its inspiring treasures.

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**5:00 p.m. EDT**

**JUDAIC PERSPECTIVES, PUBLIC SPACES**

**Moderator: Sally Stieglitz**

**Jonina Duker**

The presentation includes: developing criteria for selecting books with sufficient Judaic content; welcoming participants who are not Judaically literate or who may not identify as Jewish; analyzing written comments from Jews and non-Jews about why specific titles changed their lives for the better; framing the discussion from a Jewish perspective through examples of titles facilitated in separate venues with a general “lens” versus a Judaic “lens” (successful pandemic example: “Silas Marner” in two Zoom venues); funding book purchases when library administration passes the “duck test” (to be explained); encouraging every participant to choose to speak at least once; and optimizing both discussing and building community – i.e. schmoozing!
7:00 p.m. EDT

BOOK DISCUSSION: THE LOST SHTETL BY MAX GROSS
Moderator: Rachel Kamin

Join Rachel Kamin and the members of the AJL Fiction Award Committee for a discussion of The Lost Shtetl by Max Gross, the 2021 Award Winner. Read-alikes and other resources will be included, as well as tips for leading book discussions.
**READER TESTED, PARENT APPROVED**

*Moderator: Laurie Adler*

*Rachel Goodman, Catriella Freedman, Faye and Ellery Hollander*

Kid appeal and parent approval are crucial to the success of children's literature. Picture books rely on a relational triangle between the reader, the listener and the book. They need to have rhythm, cadence and content that appeal to the reader, as well as illustrations and concepts that engage the listener. Alternately, middle-grade readers need to be attracted to the package as much as the content and parents need to trust that these books are safe and educational. Catriella Freedman, director of PJ Our Way, will moderate a discussion between parent Faye Hollander and her daughter Ellery, along with PJ Our Way Book Selection Associate and director of kid reader teams, Rachel Goodman. We will focus on how PJ Library and PJ Our Way utilize family and kid feedback to carefully curate Jewish books kids will want to read and parents will want on their shelves.

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**NORTH, SOUTH, EAST AND WEST:**

**TRACING PROVENANCE AROUND THE WORLD**

*Moderator: Michelle Margolis Chesner*

*A Survey of the Hebrew Incunabula Collection at the Library of Congress*

*Haim Gottschalk*

Among the vast holdings of the Library of Congress is an important collection of Hebrew incunabula. Based on the Latin meaning “cradle”, incunabula refers to books printed between 1455 and 1500, the “cradle” period of printing. During this period, Hebrew books by a range of renowned scholars, including David Kimhi and Moses ben Jacob of Coucy, were printed. Throughout the past year, Haim Gottschalk cataloged a number of these works. This presentation will look at the Hebrew incunabula held by the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress and the specific cataloging challenges they presented.

**Paleography and Research of the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town Collection**

*Chaim (Louis) Meiselman*

The Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town Collection at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries was a donation of over 450 Hebrew and Yiddish books to the Penn Libraries in 2019. At its core, it is a collection of Holocaust books - rare Judaic books, mostly rabbinic, which were seized by the Nazis from their owners in Lithuania and Poland during the Nazi invasion, and books which were repatriated to South Africa after the war, when their owners weren't alive or traceable. This presentation will focus on the history of the books, their remarkable individual histories, and the Holocaust history of the collection, and their movement as they arrived at their respective collections before World War II.
Footprints in Frankfurt: Provenance of Early Hebraica at the University Library Frankfurt

Kerstin Von Der Krone & Annette Sasse

In collaboration with the Footprints project, the University Library Frankfurt was able to examine two key Hebraica collections for traces of former owners: a collection of old Yiddish prints and the Hebrew incunabula. A scholar in residence, Lucia Raspe, identified about 1,100 footprints as evidence of Jewish book ownerships and the history of Hebrew books. At the same time, we were able to shed light on key aspects of the history of the Judaica collection Frankfurt, which built upon a number of distinctive Jewish private collections. This presentation will provide insights into our findings, but also highlight the practical aspects of our collaboration and the shared effort to document provenance information in catalogue data.

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

THIRTY YEARS OF THE RUSSIAN LIBRARY IN JERUSALEM

Moderator: Gail Shirazi

Klara Elbert, Igor Kogan and Natan Sharansky

For thirty years, the Library has turned from a tiny set of some hundred books into a huge collection of more than a hundred thousand editions and today can be considered one of the world's largest collections of books on Jewish topics in Russian. Many publications stored in the library are unique. As well, the library has turned into the Center for Russian-Jewish culture in Israel. For the many Russian emigrees, primarily elderly people, the Library has turned into a bridge that allows, with the help of the Russian language, to enter the Israeli culture. For young people, this is a way to join the powerful Russian culture. Our goal is to preserve and enhance the rich cultural heritage that we possess.

Klara Elbert and Igor Kogan of the Jerusalem Russian Library, along with Natan Sharansky, Israeli politician, human rights activist, author and Soviet refusenik, will explore how they turned a tiny set of books into one of the world's largest Judaica collections in Russian.

DISCOVERIES IN THE ARCHIVES

Moderator: Rachel Leket-Mor

Uncovering UCL’s Jewish Pamphlet Collections

Vanessa Freedman

In 2019, University College London Library Special Collections completed the third stage of a five year project to catalogue, conserve and digitise its extensive collections of Jewish pamphlets. These pamphlets, of varied provenance, cover a wide range of subjects throughout the field of Jewish studies, particularly Anglo-Jewish history, Zionism and liturgy. The pamphlets date from 1601 onwards, and are in English, Hebrew, German and a number of other languages. Many of them are held in very few libraries, while some are extremely rare. This presentation will describe the collections, explain the different elements of the project and some of the challenges involved, and present highlights from the digitised items.
A Unique Perspective on Chaim and Inna Grade through their Personal Library

Moriah Kennedy

Yiddish writer Chaim and Inna Grade’s library consists of 20,000 volumes; five hundred selected books were brought to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research for the creation of the Chaim Grade Memorial Library collection. In 2019, these books were catalogued with special attention given to the peculiarities that made these copies unique to the Grades. This presentation will explore how the collection became an insight into their life and interests, an indicator of influences on Grade’s work and an exploration of the diverse provenance of the secondhand books. This presentation will also discuss how initial perceptions of the Grade collection changed based on Inna Grade’s expansion of their personal library after Chaim Grade’s death in 1982.

Behind the Scenes of a Patron/Artist Relationship: Correspondence between Stanley Marcus and James Leong

Anna Levia

The papers of artist James Leong document the successes and struggles of a working artist. In addition to images of his work and other professional records, the collection contains eloquent autobiographical writing and correspondence. Grappling with issues of racial identity, Leong lays bare his reasons for leaving San Francisco and the United States, first to Norway and then to settle in Rome for thirty years. So, what is the Jewish connection in the Leong papers? The collection contains an unexpected trove of letters between Leong and Stanley Marcus, president and eventually chairman of the board of luxury retailer Neiman Marcus. This presentation will explore the relationship between patron Marcus and artist Leong.

1:00-2:15 p.m. EDT

AJL JEWISH FICTION AWARD: MEET THE 2021 WINNERS

Moderator: Laura Schutzman

Meet Max Gross, winner of the AJL Jewish Fiction Award for his novel The Lost Shtetl along with honor winner Colum McCann, author of Apeirogon. Hear a special video message from honor winner Nicole Krauss, author of To Be a Man: Stories.

CATALOGING: ROMANIZATION, BACKLOGS, AND SNACS TO GO WITH THEM

Moderator: Haim Gottschalk

Tackling your Backlog

Elizabeth Fedden

We have a backlog of materials waiting to be processed in the best of times. This past year of many libraries working from home has created a whole new type of backlog. Elizabeth Fedden will present several strategies for approaching backlogs based on a combination of experience and academic literature. Attendees will learn to identify the scope of the backlog, why it exists and how to begin to approach it.
Having Another Nosh with SNAC

*Dina Herbert*

Learn why SNAC is called the Facebook for Dead People. Whet your appetite with updates of our system, new members, new features and new ways to use the tool. SNAC was developed to address the archival diaspora by allowing archivists, librarians and scholars to jointly maintain information about the people documented in archival collections. By demonstrating the feasibility of separating the description of persons, families and organizations from the description of the historical resources that are the primary evidence of their lives and work, SNAC has the power to link "creators to creators" in context provided by librarians and archivists. Dina will also talk about getting involved and new membership opportunities to the cooperative.

"Why Is It So Difficult to Find Hebraica in German Catalogues?" A Project to Automatically Convert Romanized Title Data

*Kerstin Von Der Krone and Aaron Christianson*

While German libraries began including the original script for Hebraica about ten years ago, catalogue data is largely available in transcription (i.e. romanization) only and based on various standards. This is an obstacle to those searching for Hebrew and Yiddish books, as well as to recent efforts to interlink catalogue data beyond local and national libraries. The University Library Frankfurt am Main developed a tool to automatically convert transcription of Hebrew script back into the original and was able to enrich catalogue data for about 14,500 Hebrew books in the Frankfurt collection. Currently, we are establishing a service for other German libraries to improve their catalogue data and thus the discoverability of Hebraica.

2:45-4:00 p.m. EDT

**RECOMMENDED READS FROM THE AJL FICTION AWARD COMMITTEE**

*Paula Breger, Beth Dwoskin, Rachel Kamin, Laura Schutzman and Sheryl Stahl*

Each year, the AJL Fiction Award Committee reads over seventy books with Jewish content. Come hear all about our favorites from 2020 and 2021. We'll cover literary fiction and genre fiction; the buzz-worthy names in Jewish literature and the lesser gems that you may have missed; the best books for discussion groups and the notable forthcoming titles. Bring your thoughts and opinions about the books you've read for a lively audience discussion, too!

**UPDATES FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

*Haim Gottschalk, Yisrael Meyerowitz, 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.
**WEDNESDAY**

**5:00 p.m. EDT**

**VENDOR ROUNDTABLE: SSCPL**
Moderator: Jackie Ben-Efraim

Meet exhibitors and vendors who provide books and services for schools, synagogues, centers and public libraries. Discuss your concerns about the future of Jewish literature, online access for schools and cataloging challenges. Participants will receive special offers and be eligible for exclusive giveaways. All are welcome!

**7:00 p.m. EDT**

**STORYTIME SHOWCASE**
Moderator: Heidi Rabinowitz

*Max Handelman, Amy Lilien-Harper, Amy Meltzer and Heidi Rabinowitz*

In the Storytime Showcase, experienced librarians and other early childhood education experts will share techniques and tips for successful storytimes. Our panelists will demonstrate a variety of age-appropriate activities and discuss the reasoning behind their choices. This session is perfect for anyone who performs storytimes for young children in preschool or early elementary school.

**FILM EVENT: THE LAST CYCLIST**
Moderator: Gail Shirazi

*Naomi Patz, Dr. Lisa Peschel and Lukas Pribyl*

The Last Cyclist is a scathing satire, originally written by Karel Švenk in Terezín, in which bicycle riders are blamed for all of society’s ills and systematically hunted down and murdered. The play was banned following its dress rehearsal because the Jewish Council of Elders, in charge of the internal workings of the camp, feared that the allegorical sendup of the Nazis was too dangerous. Nearly lost to time, The Last Cyclist was painstakingly reconstructed by writer and producer Naomi Patz, first as a play (in 2009) and more recently (2019) as a film which has earned several awards at 2020 film festivals. Through the non-threatening lens of laughter, The Last Cyclist is a safe space in which to judge not only the cruelty and evil of the Nazi genocide but also the bigotry and bullying that continues to trouble society today.

Conference attendees will receive a link and promo code to stream the film from home in advance of a panel discussion with writer Naomi Patz, Dr. Lisa Peschel, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television at the University of York, and Lukas Pribyl director of the Czech Centre in Tel Aviv.
THURSDAY, JULY 1

9:00-10:15 a.m. EDT

UPDATES FROM THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ISRAEL
Moderator: Ahava Cohen

Double Date with Us

*Shuvi Hoffman*

Go on a Double Date with NLI. In this exciting series we offer a glimpse into the "alternative" Israeli calendar as a means to learn and reflect about the complexities of Israeli society. Throughout the series, we incorporate items from the NLI archive as well as contemporary sources that shed light on various cultural and social issues. Some meetings feature guest speakers such as NLI experts, Israeli authors or social activists. Each session highlights one area and introduces a pedagogic tool or framework that educators can experience as learners and then implement in their work. Dates include Rabin Memorial Day, Sigd, Novy God, Yom HaMishpacha, Mimuna, Lag B'Omer, Jerusalem Day and other memorial and fast days.

450 Years of the Hebrew Book

*Yaniv Levi-Korem*

As part of the 450 Years of the Hebrew Book project, NLI has launched several projects to make out-of-copyright and freely accessible resources available through the library. This talk will present three of these projects: a collaboration with Google to scan all out-of-copyright Hebrew-script books in the NLI collection (and many in other scripts) and make them available both through NLI and Google Books; a local project to scan all of the out-of-copyright rare books; and ongoing work to add links from digitized books on the internet to NLI cataloging records. These projects will make hundreds of thousands of books available to readers throughout the world from one central location – the NLI catalog.

The New NLI Building Nears Completion

*Ephrat Pomerantz*

The construction of the National Library of Israel's new landmark building adjacent to the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) in Jerusalem is nearing completion. AJL attendees have been following the construction through NLI updates over the course of several years. This year we will give a tour of the building, comparing the original architects' sketches with the current state of the building as we bring the 45,000sq. m. (480,000 sq. ft.) facility to life.

International Special Projects: I-tal-ya and COVID-19 Ephemera

*Caron Sethill and Riny Goldsmith*

I-TAL-YA BOOKS is a collaboration between the Union of Jewish Communities in Italy, National Central Library of Rome and NLI to make the rich legacy of printed Hebrew books in Italy accessible to researchers everywhere. This innovative project will bring together Hebrew book holdings in Jewish communities and selected state collections across Italy through the creation of an online Union Catalogue.
In March 2020, NLI launched the Global Jewish COVID-19 ephemera collection to record the unprecedented impact of the virus on Jewish life across the world. Over 5,000 pieces of digital ephemera have been collected from twenty-six countries and international institutions, which will be catalogued and accessible to everyone long after COVID-19 is history.

**Wikipedia, Wikicommons and Wikidata**

**Orly Simon**

The Wikipedian in Residence program at NLI focuses on four main activities:

- **Content contribution**: enriching Wikipedia articles (in Hebrew, Arabic and other languages) with references and links to online resources; uploading the National Publishers Database to Wikidata; and uploading tens of thousands of Israeli photos to Wikicommons. The content added reflects Israeli and Jewish culture.
- **Advocacy and engagement**: workshops for academic, public and school librarians, open workshops for the general public, and active participation in the #1lib1ref global campaign.
- **Educational Program**: Wikipedia summer camp for high school students.
- **Services to Wikipedia editors**: reference desk, scanning requests and library services.

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

**JEWISH WOMEN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD**

Moderator: Rena Citrin

**Nancy Churnin, Marissa Moss, Laurie Wallmark and Lucy Marshall**

True stories about great Jewish women can inspire girls to reach for the stars and boys to see that gender is not a limitation for greatness. For too long, children’s biographies have been disproportionately about men. But things are changing. In addition to the 2013 *Brave Girl* and *Emma’s Poem* and the 2014 *Goldie Takes a Stand*, there is Laurie Wallmark’s 2019 *Hedy Lamarr’s Double Life*; Jeff Gottesfeld’s 2020 *No Steps Behind*; and Nancy Churnin’s 2021 *Dear Mr. Dickens* and *A Queen to the Rescue*. Plus, Marissa Moss has a new graphic biography about Jewish physicist Lise Meitner coming out next year. Marissa, Nancy and Laurie look forward to talking about why new children’s book biographies about women are important for your collection.

We know the power of stories to inspire change. How might the stories of Jewish women help us shape a better future? In this session, we will explore resources for librarians to elevate and capture the powerful stories that are all too often overlooked. The Jewish Women’s Archive (JWA) documents Jewish women’s stories, elevates their voices and inspires them to be agents of change. Learn about the expansive collection of stories available to your libraries through diverse mediums, including an encyclopedia, podcast, blogs, curriculum, posters, book groups, videos, photographs and more. Invite members of your community to share their own stories, capture oral histories and be inspired by Jewish women’s voices.
Jewish Digital Library Repository of Belgrade, Serbia  
**Biljana Albahari**  
The presentation refers to the project, achieved results and further work on the thematic digital repository of archival, audio/visual materials, written documents, scientific results and free open access publications related to Jewish heritage in Serbia. Online JDL contributes to much greater accessibility, visibility and awareness about Jews and the Holocaust in Serbia. The operating system, database, DSpace software platform were installed, as well as other necessary functional and security components of the technical environment for the operation of this repository, and the settings of the OAI-PMH protocol were made, which allows integration with international digital infrastructures. The primary goal of the project is further work on the professional classification, collection and digitization of material on Jewish heritage in Serbia.

Jewish South East Europe Online Repository  
**Ana Ćirić Pavlović**  
This presentation aims to introduce the novel online repository (JSEEOR) concerning Jewish South-East Europe (the Balkans). With the operational onset in 2021, the project will be initially focused on directing users to the online available resources on Jewish history and culture of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey. Main goals of the JSEEOR are to enhance interdisciplinary exchange, to increase the overall online visibility of the (underrepresented) content related to Jewish culture of this region, as well as to promote the re-integration of the latter into the greater, pan-European (Jewish) narrative.

PEACE: The Portal on Jewish Funerary Culture  
**Ortal-Paz Saar**  
The word “Peace”—Shalom—is found on numerous funerary inscriptions that mark the last resting place of Jewish people in antiquity. Often, it is the only word inscribed in Hebrew letters, inserted into an otherwise Greek or Latin epitaph. This paper aims to present a new digital project titled PEACE, which stands for Portal of Epigraphy, Archaeology, Conservation and Education on Jewish Funerary Culture (https://peace.sites.uu.nl/). The portal, currently found in its pilot stage, focuses on epigraphic data, and it will expand into the other three headings in the coming year. PEACE encompasses four epigraphical databases: Epidat of the Steinheim Institute (Germany), IIP (Inscriptions of Israel/Palestine) of Brown University, FIJI (Funerary Inscriptions of Jews from Italy) of Utrecht University, and most recently, Jewish Medieval Inscriptions from Toledo. These databases stem from different locations and periods, from the 5th century BCE to the 20th century. The PEACE portal allows to search all databases simultaneously, and subsequently visualize patterns of historical importance. Being an open-access, digital hub of Jewish funerary culture, PEACE enables an efficient access to its data by researchers, heritage professionals, educators and lay users from all over the world. Additionally, with its thousands of transcriptions, digital images and other forms of data, PEACE accomplishes the important goal of recording items of Jewish funerary culture and placing them in a geospatial setting. Consequently, in addition to contributing to a historical analysis of the sources, the PEACE portal serves as a digital archive of physically endangered Jewish heritage.
The SFIRA Project

*Michael Vasilyev*

Sefer Field Research Archive (SFIRA) is an open access database of field research materials on Jewish oral history, ethnography and funerary epigraphy collected in Russia and East European countries. The database developed by the Sefer Center is suitable for storage and processing of three types of data: audio and video recordings of ethnographic interviews with transcripts; full catalogs of Jewish cemeteries; and scanned and annotated historical documents, photos, memoirs and other archival materials. There are more than 250 interviews, twelve cemetery catalogs, and over 120 archival items available on the SFIRA website at the moment. During the presentation, a detailed overview of the database will be provided demonstrating its structure, different types of contents, indexing system and main features of the web interface.

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**DIVERSE LIBRARIANSHIP:**

**ALA’S EFFORTS TOWARD EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

Moderator: Emily Bergman

*Emily Bergman, Amber Hayes and Kenneth Yamashita*

Explore what it means to be a minority librarian in a majority setting and learn about the "Alphabet Soup" of ALA with Amber Hayes & Kenneth Yamashita.

**1:00-2:15 p.m. EDT**

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**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Moderator: Kathleen Bloomfield

The Keepers: Librarians and Archivists as Preservers of the Truth

*Richard Ovenden*

The preservation of knowledge has been overlooked as a vital function for society, allocated to libraries and archives for the past three millennia. The keynote will highlight the role of librarians and archivists in delivering this mission, of increased importance in an era when facts and truth have become increasingly disputed, to the detriment of open societies, democracy, and the maintenance of communities.

**2:45-4:00 p.m. EDT**

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**HOLOCAUST EDUCATION PROMOTING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Moderator: Sean Boyle

*Dr. Zipora Gur and Ellen Resnek*

Participants will be introduced to Classrooms Without Borders vision and mission: to open minds and hearts through learning experiences that transform education and empower educators and students. We will explore CWB educational initiatives and resources that inspire educators and students by promoting cross-cultural tolerance through universal human values of diversity,
THURSDAY

altruism, forgiveness, courage and respect. Together we will explore ways we can strengthen Holocaust and Israel Education by connecting teachers and scholars through experiential professional development travel seminars, immersing participants in foreign history and culture, and curated in-school programming to provide unique learning opportunities in order to enrich classroom learning.

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TRAVELS THROUGH LIBRARY RESEARCH
Moderator: Elliot H. Gertel

Zionism in Jewish Children Books before 1948
Daniel Stuhlman
This paper will examine American Jewish children's literature and how it deals with Palestine. Since there are very few books, part of the paper will discuss Daniel's search for books. He will examine textbooks, prayer books and general books aimed at children. This search is interesting because some publishers did not think children needed books and so thought there was no market. They were wrong. The first K'TonTon book sold more than 125,000 copies in the first couple of years in print. Some K'TonTon titles are still in print.

A Yiddish Translator in Situ: Pilgrimage in Support of Translation
Yermiyahu Ahron Taub
In this presentation, Yermiyahu Ahron Taub will discuss his 2018 trip to Poland in support of his translation of three Yiddish-language memoirs by Rachmil Bryks (1912-1974). That project resulted in May God Avenge Their Blood: a Holocaust Memoir Triptych (Lexington Books, 2020; Lexington Studies in Jewish Literature series). Taub will explore the life and accomplishments of the author, the translation project itself, his visits to various locations in Poland and how the travel experience benefited the work of translation.

5:00 p.m. EDT

VIRTUAL HOSPITALITY SUITE

Pop in to chat with past AJL Presidents and connect with other conference attendees in a casual, informal environment.

7:00 p.m. EDT

GAME NIGHT

Who has the most unique Zoom background? Dare to try your luck at AJL and Library Trivia? Prizes will be awarded! Bring your own beverage and/or munchies and encourage all of your AJL friends to celebrate the end of the conference with us.
Biljana Albahari graduated from the Department of Comparative Literature and Librarianship at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo. As a librarian in academic institutions, Biljana has had various positions. Since 2016, Biljana has worked as a Library consultant/bibliographer at the Bibliographical Department of the National Library of Serbia. Her professional interest relates to the promotion of the scientific work of researchers from Serbia, open access to scientific works, as well as the researching of the cultural heritage of the Jewish national minority in Serbia. As an author, Biljana published four books and other professional texts in journals and proceedings. She won the second prize at the Prize Competition given by the Federation of Jewish Communities of Serbia for the book An Overview of Jewish Periodicals in Serbia (from 1888 to 2015).

Rabbi Aharon Assaraf has been in the field of formal and informal Jewish education for the last sixteen years. Through his experience in teaching and administration in Los Angeles, New York and Miami, he understands the challenge and importance of recruiting the ideal educator. Rabbi Assaraf is passionate about Jewish education and cultivating talent that enters and grows within the field. Developing students' Jewish identities has been a focus of his life and he believes it all starts with great teachers. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Lander College and a master's from American Jewish University. Rabbi Assaraf lives in Miami Beach with his wife Becky and their four children.

Zachary M. Baker served as Judaica/Hebraica Curator in the Stanford Libraries from 1999 to 2018, when he retired. From 2010 through 2017, he was also the AUL for Collection Development. Previously, he was Head Librarian of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (NY). He is a Past-President of AJL, former editor of Judaica Librarianship and former Secretary-Treasurer of the Association for Jewish Studies.

Chris Baron is the author of the middle grade novels in verse, All Of Me, and The Magical Imperfect (2021) from Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan. He is a Professor of English at San Diego City College and the director of the Writing Center. He grew up in New York City, but he completed his MFA in Poetry in 1998 at SDSU. Baron’s first book of poetry, Under the Broom Tree, was released in 2012 on CityWorks Press as part of Lantern Tree: Four Books of Poems (which won the San Diego Book Award for best poetry anthology). Learn more about him at www.chris-baron.com and on Twitter: @baronchrisbaron Instagram: @christhebearbaron

Zvi Barsky, born in the city of Ramat Gan and living in Jerusalem, is a chemical engineer by profession. Over the years, his inveterate attraction to the bulging shelves of antiquarian bookshops yielded a collection of tomes in miscellaneous domains. As evident from the booksellers' marks glued to the inside of their cover, a number of these had originally been sold in bookshops active in late Turkish Ottoman and subsequently British Mandate Palestine. Intrigued by this commercial feature, he began to investigate not only the factual data appearing on the booksellers' marks, but also their “messages” as, at times, imparted by the names of the shops, as well as by the graphic design. Upon retirement, engaging in a project of research to this end, he scanned local archival materials and contemporaneous newspaper items providing a backdrop of circumstances and events in the country during the said time span, and – at a late moment – located and interviewed descendants and relatives of more than forty booksellers. The outcome, Making a Mark: Booksellers in Palestine, 1870–1948, is a compelling record of personal and entrepreneurial his/herstories, and sheds light on a hitherto unexplored aspect of cultural life in the period preceding the foundation of Israel.
Anne Blankman has loved to write stories for as long as she can remember. She grew up in Niskayuna, NY, where she met a classmate who had survived Chernobyl and who eventually inspired Anne to write *The Blackbird Girls*. Anne's book received several honors, including a Sydney Taylor Honor, the National Jewish Book Award, and an ALA Notable. Currently, Anne lives in Richmond, VA with her husband, Mike, her daughter, Kirsten, and two rescue cats. She loves hearing from readers and you can visit her online at [www.anneblankman.com](http://www.anneblankman.com)

Kathleen Bloomfield is the 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. Kathy is working to upgrade her long dormant website, [http://forwordsbooks.com](http://forwordsbooks.com), where she writes about children’s literature with Jewish values content. She lives in Seal Beach, CA.

Sean Patrick Boyle is the President of SSCPL Division, the Chair of the SSCPL Advocacy Committee, as well as Chair of the AJL Strategic Planning Committee. Sean is a retired U.S. Naval Officer with over 23 years of service. He earned his MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh. Sean 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.

Paula Breger is the volunteer librarian at Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill, MA, where she also serves as communications director and webmaster. She is the co-founder of Temple Emanu-El’s highly successful author series, now in its fifth year, and facilitates the temple’s book club. A former attorney and bookseller, Paula is now a freelance copyeditor. This is her first year as a member of the AJL Jewish Fiction Award Committee.

Dr. Kellie Brown serves as Chair of the Music Department and Professor of Music at Milligan University. She is a gifted violinist and conductor who has performed throughout the country. In addition, Dr. Brown is an accomplished writer and researcher. As an internationally recognized authority on music during the Holocaust, Dr. Brown has spoken frequently at academic institutions and conferences. Her latest book, *The Sound of Hope: Music as Solace, Resistance, and Salvation during the Holocaust & World War II*, was released by McFarland Publishing in 2020. In their review of this book, *The Washington Post* has declared that she “…has succeeded admirably in bringing together in one volume so much important research.”

Tracy Brown recently published her debut children’s picture book *Sarah’s Solo*. In 2019, Tracy earned a graduate certificate from the Children’s Lit Fellows program at Stony Brook University. She graduated from Brown University with a BA in English in 1986 and from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1991. Tracy is on the Executive Board of the Jewish Book Council. She served on the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and was awarded the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award in 2012 for her lifetime commitment to Jewish philanthropy. She lives between Charlotte, NC and Vail, CO with her husband Larry. Tracy has three children who live scattered across the country.

André Ceolin is a self-taught illustrator from Brazil. He started his first attempt at sketching around the age of four when his father brought home some reams of paper from work. It was in that moment that he fell in love with painting and drawing. André initially got a degree in pharmacy at UNIMEP. Though he worked in this field for several years, his artistic passion was too strong to ignore. As a young father, he was surrounded by beautiful children's books and was always drawn to the spontaneity of the imagery. He then decided to switch gears and studied at School of Visual Arts in NYC, Melies and Escola Panamericana de Artes to develop a signature look and learned new illustration techniques. André illustrated his first book *Um Dia na Vida de Micaela de Cauê* by Steinberg Milano, published by Editora Roda & Cia in 2009. Ever since, he has illustrated over twenty books by great publishers in Brazil, such as Roda & Cia, Saber e Ler, SM, Moderna, FTD, Editora do Brasil, Editora Abril. He loves working with books targeting juvenile readers from the very young age to middle-grade and young adult. When not illustrating, André creates toys and small sculptures for his son. He also enjoys bicycling, playing his guitar and singing.
Julie Reines Chervinsky is the Director of the Blavatnik Archive Foundation (BAF). Julie was born in St. Petersburg, emigrated to Israel, and then to the US where she received her BA journalism degree from S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University. Leading the Archive since its founding, Julie launched the Veteran Testimony and Ephemera Project, recording 1,200 video interviews with Jewish veterans who fought in the Soviet armed forces and partisan detachments during World War II, a chapter in Jewish history that had remained uncaptured by institutions dedicated to Holocaust Studies. Currently, Julie is involved with developing partnerships to enhance content contribution and collaborative programming, and educational curricula development.

Aaron Christianson holds an MA in Bible and Ancient Near East and is a software developer at the University Library Frankfurt am Main at Goethe University. His work is part of the Specialised Information Service Jewish Studies, which aims to provide resources for researchers in Jewish Studies and Israel-Studies in Germany.

Nancy Churnin is the award-winning author of ten picture book biographies about people who persevered to make the world a better place, including Sydney Taylor Notable Irving Berlin, the Immigrant Boy Who Made America Sing (illustrated by James Rey Sanchez) and South Asia Book Award and Sakura Medal finalist Manjhi Moves a Mountain (illustrated by Danny Popovici), both from Creston Books. Her newest books feature real-life Jewish heroines: Dear Mr. Dickens (Oct. 1, 2021; Albert Whitman) and A Queen to the Rescue: The Story of Henrietta Szold, Founder of Hadassah (Oct. 5, 2021; Creston Books). A former theater critic and native New Yorker, she lives in North Texas with her husband, a dog named Dog and two cantankerous cats.

Rena Citrin is the library director at Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School for the past twenty-three years. Located in the Lakeview neighborhood of Chicago, a long ball throw from Wrigley Field, the day school has five hundred 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.

Paula Cohen lives in a ramshackle 1920's home in NJ with her family and mini schnauzer. She illustrates, writes and makes messes in her kitchen. Paula has a BFA in illustration from Parsons School of Design and was an editorial illustrator before returning to her first love, children's books. She is the illustrator of Honey on the Page (NYU Press 2020.)

Tziporah Cohen was born and raised in New York, then spent eighteen years in Boston before landing in Toronto, where she lives with her husband, three kids, two cats and one dog. She studied French and theater arts at Cornell University and went on to get an MD from Harvard Medical School. Twenty years later, she graduated with an MFA in writing for children and young adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Tziporah now splits her time between working as a psychiatrist in oncology/palliative care and writing, interspersed with mom duties, indoor rock climbing and walking the dog. She won the CANSCAIP Writing for Children competition in 2018 in the picture book/early reader category. Her debut novel, No Vacancy, for middle grade readers, will be published in August 2020 by Groundwood Books.

Mychal Copeland can be found getting into yoga poses while teaching, writing, reading Torah and even leading Shabbat services at Congregation Sha’ar Zahav in San Francisco. He is both a Reconstructionist and Reform rabbi, earned a master’s and teaching credential from Harvard Divinity School, and is a certified yoga instructor, fusing Jewish spirituality with movement through yoga. She co-edited Struggling in Good Faith: LGBTQI Inclusion from 13 American Religious Perspectives (SkyLight Paths, 2016). I Am the Tree of Life: My Jewish Yoga Book (Apples & Honey Press, 2020) is her first children’s book. She leads yoga sessions that are steeped in Jewish thought and prayer, melding breath and posture practice with Jewish ideas. Her interests span Jewish magical texts, interfaith dialogue, Jewish issues of inclusion and teaching Judaism as a spiritual path.
June Cummins was born in New York City and grew up in San Diego, before pursuing her academic interests at Berkeley and Columbia University. She completed her doctorate while living in the Chicago area. After being hired as a professor at San Diego State University, where she made important contributions to its National Center for Children’s Literature, she spent the next two decades commuting between Chicago and San Diego, carrying a full teaching and advising load, pursuing her research and participating in conferences, often in a leadership role, and raising a family. Cummins’ interest in the commercialization of children’s literature led her to write thought-provoking articles on subjects ranging from Harry Potter to Disney’s Beauty and the Beast. Her engaging speaking style and ideas made her a popular speaker. She gave several talks for AJL in the 2000s. She was also the lecturer and assistant for the Bologna Book Fair Exhibition of International Award-Winning Children’s Book Illustrations at Northwestern University. After her diagnosis of ALS, she devoted her remaining years to finishing the biography of Sydney Taylor and enjoying her beloved family.

Ellen Drucker-Albert, co-editor, Children’s and Teen Literature, AJL News and Reviews, is the Adult & Information Services Manager at the Cold Spring Harbor Library & Environmental Center, in New York. Her librarianship career began twenty-five years ago at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Suffolk County, NY, assisting in the creation of the school library, serving as librarian and the middle school Tanach instructor. She has taught at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, the Suffolk Hebrew Midrasha Academy and the Ivry Prozdor High School of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Also an attorney, she has been a grader for the NY Board of Law Examiners since 1999. She serves as a member of the Long Island Reads Committee, a reading initiative intended to bring readers together to discuss one book and participate in related programming. She enjoys providing readers’ advisory services to her Rabbi, recommending titles for his synagogue book discussions and participating in these Jewish-themed discussions.

Susan Dubin is the Library Consultant and Education Specialist for the Sperling Kronberg Mack Holocaust Resource Center located in Las Vegas. As a library and education consultant, she provides classes for Clark County School District teachers and students. This position led her to work with the World Federation of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors and Descendants, Generations of the Shoah International, and Association of Holocaust Organizations in organizing their international conferences. In addition, she organizes community events about the Holocaust that feature authors, artists, and musicians. As a career teacher and librarian, Susan served as president of AJL. She was also on the board of the Southern California Children’s Literature Council and California School Library Association. She has participated as a judge in many literary awards committees and helped to organize the Once Upon a World Award from the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance. Working as a teacher of library at Valley Beth Shalom Harold M. Schulweis Day School from 1982 until 2011 led her to an interest in women in the Bible. Three of her published books, Kol Isha: Voice of the Woman, The Book of Ruth Retold in Poetry and The Story of Esther are volumes of poetry based on the Bible and Midrash. She has also published Katzele and the Silver Candlesticks, a middle grade novel, and Jewish Stories and Holiday Tales All Around the Year, a collection of stories and poems about the Jewish holidays. In 2020, Jewish Nevada named Susan as Jewish Educator of the Year. She was also recognized by the Milken Family Foundation as the first librarian to be honored with their Distinguished Educator Award. In addition, Susan is listed in Who’s Who in Education and Who’s Who of American Women.

Jonina Duker, lifelong bibliophile, library-lover, and award-winning reader, Taibel bas Rachel Leah v’Shlomo Yehoshua (AKA Jonina Duker), founded a monthly Jewish Book Discussion Group in 2012 for her county-wide public library. Her multi-branch system sponsors ~ fifty book discussions. The Jewish one consistently attracts the most participants. Both as a professional and volunteer leader, she has facilitated Judaic-themed book discussions in eight other venues including Barnes & Noble, a JCC, NA’AMAT, a stand-alone adult education center, and synagogues. The Great Books Foundation certified her as a Leader (Jewish Literature). She participated in the Yiddish Book Center’s 2020 workshop for its first “Coming to America” Reading Groups for Public Libraries.
Alexandra Dunietz, raised in San Diego and living in the Chicago area, is a historian of the medieval Middle East. She earned degrees from Princeton University and the University of Chicago. She has studied in France, Tunisia and Turkey, and in 2015, Brill published her monograph on a 15th-century judge in Iran. She is currently a researcher at the University of Chicago working on a project on race and religion. Alix and June Cummins met in 1992 and have been friends ever since. When June could no longer commute to her teaching job in San Diego because of her illness, Alix began visiting her daily to take dictation on the biography of Sydney Taylor, a project that had long occupied June and that both were determined to complete. What began as dictation turned into a real collaboration, and the publication by Yale University Press of From Sarah to Sydney: The Woman Behind All-of-a-Kind Family is the fruit of that partnership.

Beth Dwoskin retired after twenty-five years as a cataloger at Proquest. She is currently a part-time cataloger at the University of Michigan Hatcher Graduate Library. She is a 2020 translation fellow at the Yiddish Book Center. Beth reviews materials on Yiddish and Jewish music for AJL Reviews and has also contributed to Jewish Book World. She has written and lectured on Jewish genealogy for AJL. Beth is currently a member of the AJL Fiction Award Committee.

Judy Ehrenstein is the Head of Children's Services at the Little Falls branch of the Montgomery County (MD) Public Libraries and has been a children's librarian for over thirty years, working in urban, small town and suburban public libraries. Besides reading, she enjoys bicycling, baking, and knitting.

Klara Elbert is the founder and permanent director of the Jerusalem Russian Library since 1990. During this time, the library has become one of the world's largest collections of Jewish literature in Russian. Klara is a member of the Trustees Board of the National Library of Israel. She was awarded the Russian Pushkin Medal.

Ana Esterin is currently the Head Librarian at the Kaufman Silverberg Library (Winnipeg, Canada). Originally from Uzbekistan, she moved to Israel in 1997 and received her undergraduate degree from the Ben-Gurion University in Beer-Sheva and master’s in library and information sciences from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She worked in the public library system in Israel for eleven years before moving to Canada in 2008, where she has spent more than twelve years working as a school and community librarian.

Elizabeth Fedden graduated from the University of Washington in 2018 and has worked for the Leo Baeck Institute as the Acquisitions Librarian since graduation.

Tyler Feder is a Chicago-based artist whose work explores big feelings, feminism and pop culture. Her debut solo book, Dancing at the Pity Party, a graphic memoir about the premature death of her super cool mom, won the Sydney Taylor young adult gold medal. Tyler also wrote and illustrated Bodies Are Cool, a body positive picture book for preschoolers. Selected freelance clients include Netflix, eBay, and ATTN:. Tyler is a cat person. Visit her at www.tylerfeder.com.

Tracey Felder began working at the Leo Baeck Institute in 2007. She has been the primary cataloger for rare and special collections since 2009, for which she received advanced training from the Rare Book School in Washington, D.C. Since 2011, she has also been the primary cataloger for periodicals and has helped to catalog and prepare many of the historical periodicals digitized through LBI's Periodicals Digitization Project.

Sarah Feldman is the Library Media Specialist at Gann Academy, a Jewish high school in Greater Boston. Sarah is originally from London, England and has now lived as many years in America as the UK. During her career, Sarah has worked in both public and private schools in England and America and is a certified teacher on both sides of the Atlantic. Sarah has also worked as a book editor for trade and educational publishers in both London and New York, including for the Guinness Book of Records (UK) and Behrman House Publishers (USA). She obtained a master’s in information science from the State University of New York at Albany, has an undergraduate degree in English literature from the University of Sussex, UK and a Post-Graduate Certificate in education from Sheffield Hallam University, UK.
Catriella Freedman has been the director of PJ Our Way for 9+ years. In that time, she has learned to rely on kids and parents in curating book choices for the program. She is the author of the parent-based curriculum from the Melton Center, *Foundations of Jewish Family Living*, and *My Family Story*, the project-based learning program from ANU, the Museum of the Jewish People. She is passionate about Jewish books as a key to building Jewish engagement for kids and considers herself a dedicated author groupie. Originally from Los Angeles, Catriella and her husband are raising four children in beautiful Zichron Ya’akov, Israel.

Vanessa Freedman is Subject Liaison Librarian for Hebrew & Jewish Studies at University College London. She previously worked as Assistant Librarian at Leo Baeck College, London. She is Co-Convenor of the UK and Ireland Hebraica Libraries Group and a former member of the AJL RAS Cataloging Committee. She studied classics at Cambridge University and library and information studies at University College London.

Susan Gal began her career as a poster and calendar artist, then worked as an inbetweener for Walt Disney Feature Animation in Florida. She currently lives in Berkeley, CA where she both writes and illustrates picture books. Her titles include: *Night Lights, Please Take Me for a Walk, Welcoming Elijah: A Passover Tale with a Tail* by Leslea Newman, *Bella’s Fall Coat* by Lynn Plourde, and *Hocus Pocus, It’s Fall* by Anne Sibley O’Brien. Many of her books have been featured in the Society of Illustrators Original Art Show and have appeared on several “Best of” Children’s Books lists. Her latest book, *TWOgether* will be published spring 2021.

Riny Goldsmith is the head of the Foreign Language Cataloguing Department (since 2002) and Acting Head of the Arabic Cataloguing Department at NLI. Riny has been involved with I-TAL-YA Books since its inception and is presently cataloguing consultant for the project. She has been at NLI for more than thirty-five years in various positions and has represented NLI at several AJL conferences.

Abby Gondek, as the Morgenthau Scholar-in-Residence at the Roosevelt Institute, develops blogs, exhibits, databases and data visualizations to systematically track and share findings related to three research projects: the roles of lesser known figures, especially women, in the Treasury Department and War Refugee Board; letters from the public in support of a refugee camp in the US in 1944; and the conflicts between Treasury and State regarding rescue of Jewish children from France in 1943-1944. To track and share her data, Dr. Gondek uses digital humanities resources such as nodegoat, NVivo, Palladio, Tableau Public and Adobe Spark.

Rachel Goodman, PJ Our Way’s Book Selection Associate, facilitates the design team and advisory committee, teams of kids who create engaging web content and give valuable feedback on potential PJ Our Way titles. She studies children’s literature at Simmons University and previously taught English language and literature in South Korea. She enjoys crossword puzzles, folding paper cranes and hanging out with her eighteen pound shih tzu Owen.

Haim Gottschalk earned an MAEd 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. Haim 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*. Haim is current chair of the AJL Education Committee.

Carol Coven Grannick is an author and poet, as well as a recently-retired clinical social worker. Her debut novel in verse, *Reeni’s Turn* (Fitzroy Books, 2020), is a lyrical and accessible story for tweens that “somehow manages in its spare pages to cover the entire sea change of puberty.” (Amy Alznauer) Grannick’s short fiction and poetry appears in *Cricket, Ladybug, Babybug, Highlights, Hello*, and *Hunger Mountain*, and her picture book manuscripts have won local and national awards. Her poetry for adults has been published in numerous print and online journals, and she is a columnist and guest blogger exploring the writer’s inner journey, with a focus on emotional resilience. https://www.carolcovengrannick.com
Max Gross was born in New York City in 1978 and is the son of two writers. He attended Saint Ann’s School and Dartmouth College and worked for ten years at the Forward and the New York Post before becoming the Editor-in-Chief of Commercial Observer. He currently lives in Queens, NY with his wife and son. The Lost Shtetl, his first novel, received the 2021 AJL Fiction Award, a 2021 Sophie Brody Medal: Honorable Mention, and the 2020 National Jewish Book Award in the Book Club category.

Stephanie Gross has been Electronic Reserves Librarian at Yeshiva University since 2004 and Scholarly Communication Librarian since 2018. She has over thirty years’ experience both in public services and technical resources. Stephanie received a BA and Teacher’s Certificate in Israel from Ben-Gurion University and taught English as a Foreign Language there. Her LIS degree taken at Pratt Institute in NY. Stephanie has been mentoring library science students and new librarians for over a decade with the Association of Research & College Libraries, as well as AJL.

Aileen Grossberg has always loved words. After several years of teaching English and Latin, she changed directions and worked as a paraprofessional at her local library while earning an MLS, specializing in youth services. Aileen worked as a school and public librarian for many years. She is now the director of a synagogue library near her home in Montclair, NJ. She has served as chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Awards of AJL and is currently the chair of the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Competition. She reviews books for her local school librarian association and is a volunteer reader in a public elementary school.

Dr. Zipora (Tsipy) Gur is the Founder and Executive Director of Classrooms Without Borders (CWB), an independent program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. Dr. Gur has worked in the field of Jewish education for more than thirty-five years, creating cutting-edge programs in professional development and teacher training, supervising and mentoring teachers, teaching high school students and developing new programs to stimulate students in the classroom. Dr. Gur holds a Bachelor of Education degree from Haifa University, with a major in Hebrew language and literature and sociology, as well as a Master of Education degree in secondary education and a Doctoral degree in curriculum and supervision, both from the University of Pittsburgh.


Toby Harris earned an MLIS from the University of Washington in 2005 and has been a synagogue librarian serving all ages ever since. She also served many patrons for a couple of years as a substitute librarian for Seattle Public Library. As an active member of AJL, she spent five years on the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee and chaired the Conference committee for a few years. She is honored to serve her second year on the Sydney Taylor Awards committee.

Amber Hayes is the Outreach and Communications Program Officer within ALA ODLOS (Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services). She coordinates communications for ODLOS and works with members to develop and promote outreach materials. She is also the staff liaison to ALA’s Committee on Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds (RNTLOAK); ALA’s subcommittee on Services to Refugees, Immigrants, and Displaced Persons (SRIDP); the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS); and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL).

Dina Herbert is the National Archives liaison to Social Networks and Archival Contexts (SNAC) where she is responsible for working with partner organizations, editing SNAC, training and more. Dina is a past president of AJL. She lives in Alexandria, VA with her spouse and young children.
Monica Hesse is the bestselling author of Girl in the Blue Coat, American Fire, The War Outside, and Sydney Taylor Honor book, They Went Left, as well as a columnist at The Washington Post. She lives outside Washington, D.C. with her husband and their dog.

Shuvi Hoffman serves as Diaspora Education Manager at the NLI and was coordinator for teacher communities. She has been the Alumni Coordinator and Pedagogical Mentor in Revivim, an Honors program for Outstanding Jewish Educators in Hebrew University, a Tanach and Jewish philosophy teacher at Tali Beit Chinuch School, Jerusalem, and a teachers’ mentor at the Shalom Hartman Institute and David Yellin college. She spent two years in New York teaching Hebrew and Tanach in SAR High School and taught in Drisha summer programs. She headed Elul's Beit Midrash and coordinated a program bringing together secular and religious high-school students. Shuvi has a BA in Jewish studies and an MA in Biblical studies.

Ellery Hollander lives in Massachusetts (where it never snows enough)! She loves theater, writing, cats and music. She suspects that her cat plans to take over the world and she wishes that socks made better bookmarks. Her mother Faye is proud that she's still included in the conversation (sometimes) when Ellery picks books, something she's been doing since Ellery was two and understood more words than ideas. Faye admits that part of why it took her family so long to buy a house is because they needed extra space for books - many, many books. Every night, she reads as many pages as she possibly can before she dozes off and the book lands on her head. She prefers paperbacks.

Marjorie Ingall is the author of Mamaleh Knows Best and the co-creator of SorryWatch, which analyzes apologies in the news, in history and in the arts. The book Sorry Sorry Sorry: The Case for Good Apologies is forthcoming from Gallery/S&S in 2023. She reviews children’s books for The New York Times Book Review, and has written for many other magazines and newspapers, including Tablet (where she was a columnist for eleven years). She was the books editor and senior writer at the late, lamented Sassy.

Alison L. Joseph is Senior Editor of The Posen Library of Jewish Civilization and Culture. She brings her academic expertise in the Hebrew Bible and ancient Judaism to the management of the ancient volumes of The Posen Library, most recently, Volume 1: Ancient Israel, from Its Beginnings through 332 BCE released Spring 2021. Dr. Joseph earned a PhD in Near Eastern studies from the University of California, Berkeley and an MA in Jewish studies from Emory University. Her first book, Portrait of the Kings: The Davidic Prototype in Deuteronomistic Poetics, received the 2016 Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise.

Jacqueline Jules is the award-winning author of forty children’s books, including the Zapato Power series, the Sofia Martinez series, Unite or Die: How Thirteen States Became a Nation, Duck for Turkey Day, Never Say a Mean Word Again, Feathers for Peacock, The Hardest Word, and Pluto is Peeved. Also a poet, Jacqueline is the author of three poetry chapbooks. Her poems have appeared in over 100 publications, including Cricket, Cicada, Germ Magazine, YARN, The Poetry Friday Anthologies, and One Minute Till Bedtime. She lives in Northern Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. Visit www.jacquelinejules.com to learn more.

Kathy Kacer has written more than twenty-five books focusing on the Second World War and the Holocaust, including The Secret of Gabi's Dresser, Hiding Edith, To Look a Nazi in the Eye, Call Across the Sea, The Brushmaker's Daughter, Broken Strings, and Under the Iron Bridge. A winner of numerous Forest of Reading Awards (Canada), the Jewish Book Awards (Canada and the U.S.), and the Yad Vashem Award for Children's Holocaust Literature (Israel), Kathy has written unforgettable stories inspired by real events. She lives in Toronto and teaches writing at the University of Toronto, (Continuing Studies). She lectures in universities about teaching sensitive material to young people. Kathy speaks to children in schools and libraries about the importance of the Holocaust and keeping its memory alive.
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*. She facilitates the Sisterhood Book Club at NSS Beth El and also leads book discussions at several synagogues and organizations across the Chicago area. She served on the AJL Fiction Award Committee from 2017-2021 and is currently a member of ALA’s Sophie Brody Award Committee.

Yedida Kanfer, as Director of Community Education at the JFCS Holocaust Center, teaches teens, undergraduates and adults about the Holocaust and social responsibility. She also manages the Tauber Holocaust Library and Archives. Yedida loves using primary sources in her teaching and advises educators on incorporating them into curriculum. In 2016 she was granted the Twersky Award and Education Fellowship from the Jewish Women’s Archive. Yedida received her PhD in East European and Jewish history from Yale University, and she subsequently contracted with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, D.C. When not teaching, Yedida loves activism, Jewish/Yiddish music and bird watching.

Moriah Kennedy is the Librarian Consultant for Tablet Magazine. Previously she was the Head of Library Processing at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. She has a BA in anthropology from Bard College (2011) and an MA with Distinction in medieval and post-medieval archaeology from Durham University (2017) in the UK. In 2015, Moriah created an electronic version of Likute Shoshanim, an early 20th century inventory of bibliophile and philanthropist Mattityahu Strashun’s library, totaling over 6,000 entries. In 2019, Moriah inventoried and catalogued five hundred books from the personal library of Yiddish poet and author Chaim Grade.

Eric Chaim Kline has been actively buying and selling out-of-print and rare books since 1985. While we are known to most of you as a Judaica and Hebraica bookseller with an emphasis on the Holocaust, we have also always been a general antiquarian bookseller with strengths in a number of areas, but especially in the Arts. If you take the time to go to our website, klinebooks.com, you will see a very small selection - some 3,000 plus titles - under the category Judaica. Our actual holdings in the cognate area of Jewish studies are in excess of 100,000 titles, including works printed from the 16th to the 21st centuries. Over the years, we have built and sold two Anti-Semitism and Holocaust collections, each with more than 10,000 titles in all languages.

Elizabeth Kobert is a Project Archivist at the Jewish Theological Seminary. She received a BA in European history from the University of Pennsylvania and an MLIS and Advanced Certificate in archives from Pratt Institute.

Igor Kogan is the head of Russian projects at the Jerusalem Russian Library. After coming to Israel in 1992, he worked for IBM Israel. After retirement, he began to work on Russian projects in the Library. In Moscow, he collaborated in various popular science magazines. He is author and co-author of about ten popular science books and has hosted the TV program “Dialogue with a Computer” for three years (1989-1992). In Israel, Igor created a site "Index of publications in Russian, published in Israel".

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. She is the 2020-21 president of the Greater Boston Independent School Collaborative Library Association.
Barbara Krasner is a doctoral candidate in Holocaust & genocide studies at Gratz College outside Philadelphia. She teaches in the Holocaust & Genocide Studies Program at The College of New Jersey and serves as Director, Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Education Center at Mercer County Community College. She holds an MFA in writing for children & young adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and is the award-winning author of two poetry chapbooks and the forthcoming *Ethel's Song: A Life in Poems* about the alleged Soviet spy Ethel Rosenberg (Calkins Creek, 2022). A former member of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee, she reviews Holocaust books for the AJL Newsletter.

Nicole Krauss is the author of the international bestsellers, *Forest Dark* and *Great House*, and is a finalist for the National Book Award and the Orange Prize. She also wrote *The History of Love*, which won the Saroyan Prize for International Literature and France’s Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger, and was short-listed for the Orange, Médicis, and Femina prizes. Her first novel, *Man Walks Into a Room*, was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book of the Year. In 2007, she was selected as one of Granta’s Best of Young American Novelists, and in 2010 she was chosen by *The New Yorker* for their “Twenty Under Forty” list. Her fiction has been published in *The New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, *Harper’s Magazine*, *Esquire* and *The Best American Short Stories*, and her books have been translated into thirty-seven languages. She is currently the first Writer-in-Residence at the Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute at Columbia University. *To Be a Man*, her first collection of short stories, was published in November 2020.

Mirta Kupferminc is an award-winning artist, lecturer and teacher. She was born in Buenos Aires to immigrant parents who had survived Auschwitz. Exile and migration, identity, human rights and memory are the themes that run through her work. Since 1977, she has had over 100 solo exhibitions, including representing Argentina in international biennials. Her works are in numerous collections, among them the Golda Meir Library, Wisconsin University, Milwaukee; Library of Congress, Washington DC; the Israel Museum, Jerusalem; The Fine Arts Taipei Museum, Taiwan; and the Shanghai National Museum, China. She is Founder and current artistic director of LABA-BA: Laboratory of Art and Jewish Culture in Buenos Aires since 2015. Mirta directs her own studio and Grafica Insurgente, artistic training for professional artists.

Shaindy Kurzmann has worked in college and university libraries with cataloging, reference, instruction, and archives responsibilities for the past 25+ years. She began her librarian career as the “Federation Librarian” in Nashville, TN. This position included working in the libraries of the Jewish Community Center, two synagogues and a day school. When her family relocated to Silver Spring, MD, she volunteered in her children’s school library, and following their move to Monsey, NY, she served as a high school librarian. The one constant, wherever Shaindy has worked, has been AJL, which has been a source of information, education, and inspiration throughout the years.

Susan Kusel is the librarian at Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, VA, the children’s book buyer and selector for [words] bookstore in Maplewood, NJ, and the owner of Dream On Books, a children’s book consulting company. She has served on many book award committees including the Caldecott Medal and the Sydney Taylor Book Award. Susan is a former board member of AJL. She recently published her debut book, *The Passover Guest*, illustrated by Sean Rubin with Neal Porter Books/Holiday House.

Khoa Le has illustrated picture books published in a number of different countries, including the 2020 Sydney Taylor Honor book *Miriam at the River*. She is also an author, a graphic designer and a painter. Khoa has a passion for travel, an eagerness to learn about different cultures and a desire to discover the beauty of the world. Her inner moth makes her attracted to any source of light, but her dream is to one day see the northern lights. She lives in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, with her five cats.

Rachel Leket-Mor has been the Jewish Studies librarian at ASU Library since 2002, and curator of ASU’s IsraPulp Collection of Hebrew popular literature since she established it in 2005. She served as AJL’s RAS President (2010–2012) and RAS Vice-President (2008–2010) and is the current editor (2012–) of *Judaica Librarianship*, AJL’s scholarly journal.
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, and 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.

Yaniv Levi-Korem has, for over ten years, served as head of the Technical Services division at the National Library of Israel, in charge of different aspects of the daily back office management of the library, including acquisition, cataloging, preservation, archives, manuscripts and music. Yaniv has been instrumental in facilitating public access to traditional library resources on a wide scale, both within the library and for patrons throughout the world, and in preparing the library's physical resources for the move to NLI's future home. Before joining NLI, he worked at Ex Libris and CDI Systems. Yaniv has an LLB and an MBA from the Hebrew University.

Anna Levia works as a learning and outreach librarian; bibliographer for linguistics; and processing archivist at Stanford Libraries.

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. Rebecca is currently the Sydney Taylor Book Award Chair and the AJL PR Chair. As a mom of three young children, 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 in 200, an MLS in 1995 from UMCP, an MA in Jewish studies in 1994, and BA cum laude from Haverford College in 1990. David currently serves as the Chief Librarian at Lander College for Women. See: http://facpubs.tourolib.org/publications/faculty/levy-david-b and https://touroscholar.touro.edu/tcl_pubs/

Joanne Levy, being the youngest and the only female among four children, was often left to her own devices and could frequently be found sitting in a quiet corner with her nose in a book. Joanne left the corporate world in 2013, and since then, when she’s not working on her own books, she helps other authors with their administrative needs as a virtual author assistant. She is the author of the Sydney Taylor notable book, Small Medium at Large, Double Trouble, Fish Out of Water, The Sun Will Come Out, and the upcoming Sorry for Your Loss. She can usually be found at her computer, either creating spreadsheets (sometimes just for fun) or channeling her younger self into books. Joanne lives in rural Ontario, Canada with her husband and kids of the furred and feathered variety.

Amy Lilien-Harper has been a professional children's librarian since 1995. In that time, she has worked with children from birth through high school. Storytime has always been a big part of her job, which has been especially challenging, yet rewarding, throughout COVID. She has served on the Newbery committee, the Caldecott committee and the ALA Notable children’s recordings committee. She reviews picture books for School Library Journal and is presently serving on the AJL Holiday Highlights Committee.

Michelle Margolis Chesner is the Norman. E. Alexander Librarian for Jewish Studies at Columbia University and is Vice President/President-Elect of AJL. She co-directs Footprints: Jewish Books Through Time and Place, and is the co-convener of the Northeast Judaica Bibliographers’ Consortium.

Lucy Marshall is the Twersky Education Fellow at the Jewish Women’s Archive. Based on Dakota Land in Minneapolis, Lucy is a Jewish educator, facilitator, youth worker, ritual leader and activist.
Colum McCann is the author of seven novels and three collections of stories. Born and raised in Dublin, Ireland, he has been the recipient of many international honours, including the National Book Award, the International Dublin Impac Prize, a Chevalier des Arts et Lettres from the French government, election to the Irish arts academy, several European awards, the 2010 Best Foreign Novel Award in China, and an Oscar nomination. In 2017, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts. His work has been published in over forty languages. He is the co-founder of the non-profit global story exchange organisation, Narrative 4, and he teaches in the MFA program in Hunter College. Colum’s novel, Apeirogon, is already an international best-seller and has been optioned by Amblin Entertainment for adaptation to film. It is a 2021 AJL Fiction Honor Award winner, the 2020 National Jewish Book Award Fiction Winner, and was on the Short List for the 2021 Wingate Prize and the Long List for the 2020 Booker Prize.

Chaim (Louis) Meiselman is the Judaica Special Collections cataloging librarian at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries, where he catalogs various formats of rare Judaica. He has worked as a rare materials cataloger for Judaica collections in the United States such as The Library of Congress, the Baltimore Hebrew College Library at the Towson University Libraries, and the Ner Israel Rabbinical College closed stacks. Chaim is also a collector of Judaica and lives in Elkins Park, PA.

Amy Meltzer works as the Professional Learning Lead for PJ Library. She was a longtime kindergarten teacher at Lander-Grinspoon Academy and the Director of Young Family Engagement at Abundance Farm. Amy is the author of three children’s books, A Mezuzah on the Door, The Shabbat Princess and Harvest Blessings, and the Jewish parenting blog Homeshuling. Amy is the 2015 recipient of the Covenant Award for excellence in Jewish education.

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 2016. Yisrael’s publications have appeared in the AJL Conference Proceedings, the JTS Library blog, and in the journal Yeshurun.


Marissa Moss has written more than seventy children's books, from picture books to middle grade and young adult historical novels. She is best known for the Amelia’s Notebook series, which has sold six million copies, been translated into several languages and started the notebook format craze in children's books. Moss brings history to life in her picture book biographies and middle grade novels. Her books have won many awards and been translated into several languages. Her first adult/young adult graphic novel, Last Things, a Memoir of Love and Loss, uses her trademark mix of art and text in a graphic memoir about her husband’s death from ALS and her family’s reaction to the illness and loss. The book won the Cowan Writer's Prize.

Lincoln A. Mullen is an associate professor in the Department of History and Art History at George Mason University, and the director of computational history at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media. He is the author of The Chance of Salvation: A History of Conversion in America (Harvard, 2017). Lincoln is currently working on a digital monograph titled America's Public Bible: A Commentary and a collaborative project to digitize the 1926 Census of Religious Bodies titled American Religious Ecologies.
Russel Neiss, equally fluent in Yiddish and Javascript, is a Jewish educator, technologist and activist who builds critically acclaimed educational apps and experiences used by thousands of people each day. His work has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, NPR, The Atlantic, CNN, The Wall Street Journal, the Jewish Telegraph Agency, and other media outlets. Russel began his career as an itinerant Jewish educator traveling across the deep south and has worked in a variety of Jewish educational settings including day schools, supplemental schools, museums and archives. In 2017, he was selected by the Forward as one of the fifty most influential Jewish Americans and in 2020 he received the Covenant Award, one of the highest honors in the field of Jewish education. He currently serves as a Senior Product Software Engineer at Sefaria. Russel lives in St. Louis with his wife Maharat Rori Picker Neiss and his kids Dan, Susanna and Shmaya.

Lesléa Newman has created 75 books for readers of all ages, including the children's books, Welcoming Elijah: A Passover Tale With A Tail (Sydney Taylor Award and National Jewish Book Award); Gittel's Journey: An Ellis Island Story (National Jewish Book Award); Ketzel, The Cat Who Composed (Sydney Taylor Award and Massachusetts Book Award); Sparkle Boy, and Heather Has Two Mommies; the novel-in-verse, October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard (ALA Stonewall Honor Book); and the double memoir, I Carry My Mother and I Wish My Father. She has received poetry fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Artists Foundation. From 2008 - 2010, she served as the poet laureate of Northampton, MA.

Stacy Nockowitz is a middle school librarian and former language arts teacher. She received her bachelor’s degree from Brandeis University and holds master's degrees from Columbia University Teachers College and Kent State University. She is also an MFA candidate in writing for children and young adults at the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Stacy is a PJ Library Writer’s Incentive Award recipient, and her debut middle grade novel, The Prince of Steel Pier, will be published by Kar-Ben in the fall of 2022. Born and bred in the Philadelphia area, Stacy now lives in central Ohio with her husband of thirty years and misses her grown children who should call their mother often.

Richard Ovenden has been Bodley’s Librarian (the senior Executive position of the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford) since 2014. Prior to that, he held positions at Durham University Library, the House of Lords Library, the National Library of Scotland and the University of Edinburgh. He moved to the Bodleian in 2003 as Keeper of Special Collections, becoming Deputy Librarian in 2011. He was educated at the University of Durham and University College London and holds a Professorial Fellowship at Balliol College, Oxford. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Society of Arts and a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was made OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours 2019. Richard serves as treasurer of the Consortium of European Research Libraries, as president of the Digital Preservation Coalition, and as a member of the Board of the Council on Library and Information Resources (in Washington DC). He is a member of the Grolier Club (NY) and the Roxburghe Club.

Sofiya Pasternack is a mental health professional, the highly-distractible author of Jewish MG and YA fantasy, and prone to oversharing gross medical stories. She enjoys yapping ad nauseam about writing, both in live presentations and in videos posted to her YouTube channel. She does not enjoy running but she does it anyway. She is actually a gremlin in a bad wig. Her debut MG fantasy novel Anya and The Dragon is a 2019 Sydney Taylor Book Honor for Middle Grade, and the follow-up, Anya and The Nightingale, is a National Jewish Book Award Finalist! Find Sofiya online at www.sofiyapasternack.com or any social media platform @sofipasternack.

Naomi Patz reconstructed and reimagined The Last Cyclist from a nearly lost script originally written in the Terezín Ghetto in 1944. Together with her husband and co-producer, Rabbi Norman Patz, she is currently working on a documentary tentatively titled The Last Cyclist in Context. She has created many one-act plays, scripts and parodies on Jewish themes, and a cantata called A Word to the Wise. Naomi is the author of seven books and numerous essays, including monographs on two pre-World War II Czech Jewish communities (Dvůr Králové and Jihlava). Her career includes serving as director of the North American Jewish Forum for eight years and eight years as National Director of Partnership 2000 (now Partners Together). She holds a BA in English literature from Barnard College, an MA in English from Old Dominion.
University and an MA from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, which awarded her an honorary doctorate in Jewish Religious Education in 2004.

Ana Ćirić Pavlović is a PhD Fellow at Atelier Department for Interdisciplinary History at ELTE University in Budapest. She was a Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellow exploring the intertwining of post-communism and antisemitism in CEE region. In addition, Ana holds a MA in human rights and international law (European Institute, Spain) and in Jewish studies (Central European University, Hungary). Ana obtained a Bachelor degree in international relations (Faculty of Political Science, Serbia). Pavlović previously worked as human rights consultant and lecturer in Jewish history and antisemitism, as well as interpreter in English, French and Spanish.

Dr. Lisa Peschel is a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in the Department of Theatre, Film, Television and Interactive Media at the University of York, UK. Her articles on theatrical performance in the Terezín/Theresienstadt ghetto have appeared in journals in the US and the UK, as well as Czech, German and Israeli publications. She has reconstructed and restaged scripts from the ghetto in the US, the UK, the Czech Republic, Australia and South Africa. Her anthology of rediscovered scripts, Performing Captivity, Performing Escape: Cabarets and Plays from the Terezin/Theresienstadt Ghetto, was published in 2014 (Czech- and German-language edition 2008).

Ephrat Pomerantz manages the NLI new building project and before that was the Director General of the Israel National Library Construction Company. She has a rich history managing campus development projects. Her clients have included the Israel Museum and the Israel Defense Forces. Ephrat has a BSc in civil engineering from the Technion.

Judith Pranksy, from the time she was a child, planned on being an author, but she traveled a long, winding road to reach that goal. Along the way, Judith taught English in Israel, and English, history, and creative writing in the United States. She also ran a business called Custom Cakes, creating unique designs for all occasions. Additionally, Judith wrote articles for newspapers and worked as an editor. All along, she kept sending her stories to publishers and receiving rejection letters. At last, when she was already a grandmother, Menucha Publishers accepted Mister Lister, and Judith’s writing career began. The book was quickly followed by Mister Lister Strikes Again, and she is currently working on a third story in the series. Meanwhile, in 2018, Judith won the AJL Manuscript Award. That manuscript became the young people’s novel, The Seventh Handmaiden, published by Green Bean Books.

Lukas Pribyl studied politics and Near Eastern studies at Brandeis University and at Hebrew University in Jerusalem; religion and human rights at SIPA at Columbia University in New York; history at Central European University in Budapest; and Jewish religion and philosophy at Paideia in Stockholm. Except work on various political science related projects, he has published on various aspects of Jewish history and curated exhibitions at the Jewish Museum in Prague. He also served as the first Director of the European Shoah Legacy Institute and as the director of the Czech Centre in Tel Aviv. Currently, he is Head of Public Diplomacy at the Embassy of the Czech Republic.

Caroline Kusin Pritchard is an author and educator who is passionate about Jewish joy, humor and inclusivity. She received her BA and MA from Stanford University and has spent her career working across education, everything from teaching brilliant third graders to helping develop federal policy. Caroline is currently an MFA candidate in writing for children and young adults at Vermont College of Fine Arts. She plots over publishing picture books, including her debut Gitty and Kvetch (Atheneum/Simon & Schuster), with more on the way. Caroline is an engaging presenter for children and lives in the Bay Area where she lives with her husband, three kids and 120-lb dog named Mishpacha.

Heidi Rabinowitz is the Director of the Feldman Children’s Library at Congregation B’nai Israel, a large Reform synagogue in Boca Raton, FL where she serves the students of the preschool and religious school. She has hosted The Book of Life Podcast, a show about Jewish kidlit (mostly) since 2005, at www.bookoflifepodcast.com. Heidi is a Past Chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee, and a current member of the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award committee. She is a Past President of AJL and currently serves as Member Relations Chair.
Arlene Ratzabi has been the Librarian of the Hendel Family of Westchester Jewish Center for the past eleven years, as well as the Volunteer Librarian for her own synagogue, the Israel Center of Conservative Judaism in Flushing, NY. Arlene began her library career in Israel after completing her master's in library science at Columbia University. She spent ten years as a professional librarian in Israel; first as a Periodicals Librarian at the National and University Library in Jerusalem and then as the Acquisitions Librarian at the Central Library of Agricultural Science in Rehovot. After moving back to New York, she used her library background to begin a new career as an Executive Recruiter with a boutique recruiting firm. Through the years, Arlene became very involved with her synagogue in Queens and decided that she would like to return to the Jewish community in a professional capacity and use her library background in research and subsequently, she joined the staff of the Westchester Jewish Center in Mamaroneck, NY to manage their library.

Yahm Reichart (she/her) is a first year MLIS student at the University of Alabama, focusing on academic libraries and digital stewardship. She received her first master's in American studies from the University of Alabama where she conducted an ethnographic study of Israelis who live in Birmingham, AL. She received her Bachelor's degree in American studies, and women & gender studies from Tel-Aviv University. She is a native of Los Angeles, CA and while she has not gotten quite used to the humidity of the American South, she loves the forests, cicadas and barbecue. Yahm lives with her fiancé, Adam, and their pet snake, Eve, who enjoys sitting on Yahm's desk while she works.

Ellen Resnek is the Educational Programs and Outreach Manager at Classrooms without Borders. She has been an educator for over twenty years. Her expertise in educational outreach is only surpassed by her passion for professional development. She has participated in, and led, a multitude of professional development programs both in the United States and abroad. Ellen's classes have designed and participated in cross-cultural immersive activities with educators and students across the globe creating platforms to engage in thoughtful discussions surrounding difficult histories to enrich and inform the greater global community. She has developed and presented educational outreach programs sharing her experience and expertise.

Aviva Rosenberg holds a BA in history from Stern College and an MLS from Southern Connecticut State University. Since "costumed reenactor at Renaissance festivals" is a tough career for someone who is Shabbat-observant, she is currently the Youth Services Librarian at the Ridgefield Free Public Library in Ridgefield, NJ, and has previously worked as a Jewish day school librarian. She has served on the Sydney Taylor Book Award committee since 2020, and reviews children's books for AJL Reviews. Aviva lives in Passaic, NJ with her husband and four children. She can typically be found providing spontaneous reader's advisory to strangers in stores and on the internet.

Jim Rosenbloom is a retired Judaica librarian from Brandeis University. His past AJL positions include: RAS vice-president and president, AJL president, local conference chair, and National Conference chair.

Lili Rosenstreich has over thirty years in publishing, first as the Design Director at Farrar, Straus, and Giroux Books for Young Readers and ultimately as a freelance art director for multiple publishers. Lili, with her partner, Mitchel Weiss, founded Kalaniot Books in 2019. Kalaniot Books focuses on picture books that help parents expose their children to the rich mosaic of Jewish culture and history. Find them online at KalaniotBooks.com. Lili is very excited to be introducing you to Kalaniot Books' September 2021 release of My Israel and Me written by Alice Blumenthal McGinty with illustrations by Rotem Teplow.

Lois Ruby is a recovering librarian and still-healthy author of twenty-two books for older children and teens. Her books range from historical to contemporary fiction, with one biography of a labor activist, Mother Jones, slipped in there. Some of the stories are on Jewish themes, others are secular, but all are shaped by Lois's Jewish values. She lives in Cincinnati with her husband Tom, a clinical psychologist, and they share three sons, three daughters-in-law, and seven brilliant grandchildren.
Ortal-Paz Saar (Utrecht University, Netherlands) is a cultural historian of Judaism in Late Antiquity and the medieval period. Her research focuses on two fields: magic and funerary culture, and she is particularly interested in portraying the interaction between different religious traditions. Additionally, Ortal-Paz is developing a digital humanities international project titled “PEACE: Portal of Epigraphy, Archaeology, Conservation and Education on Jewish Funerary Culture.”

Shalom Sabar is Professor Emeritus of Jewish Art and Folklore, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (PhD in art history, University of California Los Angeles, 1987). His research and publications concentrate on the history of Jewish art, ceremonies and rituals, objects in the life and year cycles, visual folklore and material culture of Jewish communities in Christian Europe and the Islamic East. He has published more than 230 essays and several books on these topics. His last book is The Sarajevo Haggadah: History and Art (2018), issued by the National Museum of Bosnia of Herzegovina, where the codex is kept. He is also a collector of Jewish folk objects and Israeli ephemera and guides traveling seminars to study Jewish communities and monuments in many countries in Europe, Central Asia, North Africa and India.

Annette Sasse is a Judaica Librarian at University Library Frankfurt am Main at Goethe University where she works for the Specialised Information Service Jewish Studies. This project aims to provide resources for researchers in Jewish Studies and Israel Studies in Germany.

Esther Schnaidman has been the school librarian/teacher at the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey since 2000, where she teaches information literacy skills and shares her love of books with her students. She received her MLS from Rutger's School of Communication and Information. She lives in Teaneck, NJ with her family.

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 Committee since 2019 and currently serves as the Committee Chair.

Deena Schwimmer has an MLS degree with a concentration in archival science from the Pratt Institute and has over sixteen years of professional archival experience. Her areas of expertise include collection management, metadata creation, processing methodologies and rights management. She has managed numerous large technical and administrative projects and implementations. Deena has taught the graduate level survey archives class at the Pratt Institute, as well as numerous workshops on archives collection management tools. She has worked at Yeshiva University Libraries since 2006.

Amanda (Miryem-Khaye) Seigel, is a research librarian in the Dorot Jewish Division of The New York Public Library, and a Yiddish singer, songwriter, actor and recording artist. Her publications include the book Jews in America: From New Amsterdam to the Yiddish Stage, the articles “The Broder Singers: Forerunners of the Yiddish Theater” (Polin, v. 32) and “Nahum Stutchkoff's Yiddish Play and Radio Scripts in the Dorot Jewish Division, New York Public Library” (Judaica Librarianship, v. 16), and a music album, “Tozynt tamen = A thousand flavors”.

Caron Sethill is Progamme Manager Europe at NLI, managing Gesher L'Europa, which aims to share NLI Collections in creative ways, to support professionals working in Jewish heritage and educators working in Jewish settings in Europe. Prior to working at NLI, she worked at the British Council, promoting connections between Britain and Israel.

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, as well as on ALSC’s 2018 Geisel Committee. You can find her online at www.SylvieJulietShaffer.com.
Natan Sharansky was born in Donetsk, Ukraine. He was a spokesman for the human rights movement, a Prisoner of Zion and leader in the struggle for the right of Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel. Subsequent to his request to make aliyah, Mr. Sharansky was arrested on trumped up charges of treason and espionage. He was convicted in a Soviet court and served nine years in the Gulag, with many stretches in a punishing cell. Following massive public campaigns by the State of Israel, World Jewry and leaders of the free world, Mr. Sharansky was released in 1986, making aliyah on the very day of his release. In his first few years in Israel, Mr. Sharansky established the Zionist Forum to assist Soviet olim in their absorption in Israel. In the 1990s, he established the Yisrael B’Aliyah party in order to accelerate the integration of Russian Jews. He served in four successive Israeli governments, as Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. In 2018, he received the highest Israeli award - the Israel Prize for promoting Aliyah and the ingathering of the exiles. Mr. Sharansky is the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1986 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2006. He is the only living non-American citizen who is the recipient of these two highest American awards. Natan Sharansky served as Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel from 2009-2018. After retirement, he continues to serve as Chairman of the Shlihut Institute, which he founded. In July 2019 Mr. Natan Sharansky became Chair of the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy. Mr. Sharansky is also the author of four books: Fear No Evil, The Case for Democracy, Defending Identity, and Never Alone: Prison, Politics and My People.

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. She holds an MLS from The Catholic University of America, an MA from Syracuse University (Maxwell School) and a BA in political science from University of Maryland. She enjoys arranging lectures and programs of Jewish/Israeli content locally, in Pittsburgh and in Sarasota, co-sponsoring events with embassies, academic organizations and Jewish organizations.

Dr. Lyudmila Sholokhova is a Curator of the Dorot Jewish Collection at New York Public Library. She was the Director of the YIVO Library and Associate Director for External Relations in Eastern Europe and Russia from 2019 till January 2020. She was Head Librarian at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research from 2011-2016, Acting Chief Archivist from 2013-2016, and Director of the YIVO Archives and Library from 2016-2019. From 1994-2001, she was a Research Associate at the Judaica Division of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine. Dr. Sholokhova is the author of numerous publications on the history of Jewish music and Jewish bibliography. She is fluent in Russian, Ukrainian, English and Yiddish.

Lisa Silverman is a librarian, book group facilitator, book reviewer and AJL Review Journal co-editor. Most recently the director of the Sperber Jewish Community Library at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles, she is now retired, and working on AJL conferences as the National Chairperson and Trivia Game Night MC.


Martha Simpson has been Head of Children's Services at the Stratford Library in Stratford, CT for 27 years. She is an active member of ALA and the Association for Library Service to Children and has served on numerous committees. She is also the author of three picture books and five library resource books. Martha is currently the chair of the 2022 Sydney Taylor Book Award committee.

Sonja Spear is the winner of the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award for her book, Cats and Honey Cake.

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. She currently serves as the AJL webmaster. She has been an avid reader and library fan her whole life. She is thrilled to be a member of the AJL Fiction Award Committee where she has another reason to do even more reading.
Julie Sternberg is the award-winning author of the best-selling Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie; its sequels Like Bug Juice on a Burger and Like Carrot Juice on a Cupcake; The Top-Secret Diary of Celie Valentine series; and the picture books Puppy Puppy Puppy and Bedtime at Bessie and Li’s. Her ninth book, the middle-grade novel Summer of Stolen Secrets, was published by Viking Children's Books in May 2021. She is also co-host and co-founder of the Book Dreams podcast.

Gerald K. Stone, the son of Holocaust survivors, received his MLS from McGill University in Montreal. He joined the National Archives of Canada in 1983 where, for the next twenty-five years, he provided expertise and leadership in improving access to archival and published material through resource description standards, systems, networks and digitization. Mr. Stone served as Director of the standards offices of both the National Archives and Library and Archives Canada (LAC) before retiring in 2009 as Director of Planning and Research of LAC's Documentary Heritage Collection Sector. During his career, Mr. Stone contributed to the development of Canada's national archival descriptive standard, the Rules for Archival Description (RAD) and served on a number of professional committees, notably the Canadian Committee on Archival Description and the Canada-U.S. Task Force on Archival Description. An avid collector of Jewish Canadiana, Mr. Stone donated some two thousand volumes of his book collection to the University of Ottawa in support of its Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program. In 2009, Mr. Stone received the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's 75th Anniversary Volunteer Award in recognition of his activities and leadership focused on the development and preservation of the Ottawa and Canadian Jewish communities' documentary heritage.

Daniel Stuhlman has over fifty years’ experience working in libraries. He is a graduate of Jewish Theological Seminary (BHL); Columbia University (BA and MS LS) and Jewish University of America (MHL, DHL). Daniel worked for City Colleges of Chicago since 2006; Temple Sholom of Chicago since 2015 and other synagogues from 1976-2015. He has taught for several library schools. Write blog: kol-safran.

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 two works of fiction, Beloved Comrades: a Novel in Stories (2020) and 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 volk-kratsers: geklibene Yidishe lider/A Mouse Among Tottering Skyscrapers: Selected Yiddish Poems (2017). His most recent translation from the Yiddish is May God Avenge Their Blood: a Holocaust Memoir Triptych by Rachmil Bryks (Lexington Books, 2020; Lexington Studies in Jewish Literature series). Please visit his website at https://yataubdotnet.wordpress.com.

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.

John G. Turner is Professor of Religious Studies at George Mason University. He is the author, most recently, of They Knew They Were Pilgrims: Plymouth Colony and the Context for American Liberty. He is PI of the Pandemic Religion project at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media and a co-PI on its Collecting These Times project. He holds a PhD in U.S. history from the University of Notre Dame.

Miriam Udel is associate professor of German Studies and Jewish Studies at Emory University, where her teaching focuses on Yiddish language, literature and culture. She holds an AB in Near Eastern languages and civilizations and a PhD in comparative literature from Harvard University. She was ordained in 2019 as part of the first cohort of the Executive Ordination Track at Yeshivat Maharat, a program designed to bring qualified mid-career women into the Orthodox rabbinate. Udel’s academic research interests include 20th-

**Mikhail Vasilyev** is a leading researcher and a coordinator for academic programs at Sefer Center for Academic Teaching of Jewish Studies in Moscow. Mikhail earned his master’s degree in Jewish studies from the Moscow State University. He also completed a one-year traineeship at Hebrew University in Jerusalem (Israel). In 2015, Mikhail started to work at the Sefer Center as a coordinator for academic programs on Jewish studies and a leading researcher of the cemetery research program. Since 2012, he has joined fourteen field schools and expeditions (eight of them as a team leader) and taken part in cataloging 24 Jewish cemeteries located in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania and Moldova. Currently, he also administers the epigraphic section of the SFIRA database developed by the Sefer Center.

**Kerstin von der Krone** is Head of the Judaica Division at the University Library Frankfurt am Main at Goethe University, the largest Judaica collection in Germany. Her scholarly works have mostly focused on modern Jewish history in Central Europe; in particular the Wissenschaft des Judentums movement, Jewish press and print culture, and nineteenth-century Jewish education.

**Laurie Wallmark**, award-winning author, writes picture book biographies of women in STEM. Her books have earned multiple starred trade reviews, been chosen as Junior Library Guild Selections and received awards such as Outstanding Science Trade Book, Best STEM Book, Crystal Kite Award, and Parents’ Choice Gold Medal. Her titles include *Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine*, *Hedy Lamarr’s Double Life*, and *Code Breaker, Spy Hunter*. Laurie has an MFA in writing from VCFA and frequently presents at schools as well as national professional conferences (NSTA, NCTE, ALA, TLA, etc.). She is a former software engineer and computer science professor. You can find Laurie on the Web at www.lauriewallmark.com and @lauriewallmark.

**Amalia Warshenbrot** was the director of the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library & Resource Center in Charlotte, North Carolina for 22 years. She retired in 2009, but continued her involvement in AJL. Since joining AJL in 1988, she served as AJL VP, president, SSC President, founded the Bibliography Bank, served on the Accreditation committee for ten years and chaired for two, was one of the members of the Fanny Goldstein award committee, The Groner-Wikler Scholarship committee (includes creating the criteria), Weine cataloging committee and the mentoring committee, as well as the conference committees of the Las Vegas, Seattle, Charleston and Boston conferences.

**Bruchie Weinstein** has been head librarian at Magen David Yeshivah High School in Brooklyn for thirty years. Prior to that, she received her MLIS from Pratt and served as cataloging librarian at the Center for Holocaust Studies where she contributed to the book and exhibit *We Were Children Just Like You*. Bruchie has been a member of AJL for over thirty years, has co-chaired both the NYMA chapter Reference and School Library Workshops, is a member of the AJL Accreditation Committee and has presented at various conferences and workshops.

**Dov Winer** is a psychologist (Hebrew University) specialized in online education and training. He planned an Internet Global Jewish Network (1991-2); managed JAFI eJewish.info program for Jewish Networking Infrastructures (2001-2006); and introduced Israel to MINERVA (Ministerial Network for Valorizing Activities in Digitisation). Ensuing projects coped with challenges of Jewish content: MOSAICA Semantic Access to Cultural Heritage; Athena; Athena Plus; Linked Heritage; DM2E (Digital Manuscripts to Europeana); and the two Judaica Europeana projects (2010-2012 and 2019-2021). He co-chaired the EVA/Minerva Jerusalem International Conferences on Digitisation of Culture and taught a post-graduate seminar on Digital Humanities at the Hebrew University.
M. Evan Wolkenstein is a high school teacher and writer. He attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Hebrew University and the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies. His work can be found in The Forward, Tablet Magazine, The Washington Post, Engadget, My Jewish Learning, and BimBam. He lives with his wife and daughters in the San Francisco Bay Area. Turtle Boy is his first novel. He can be found on Twitter and IG at @EvanWolkenstein.

Kenneth A. Yamashita was born in the Japanese American concentration (FDR’s term) “relocation” (U.S. govt. propaganda term) incarceration camp at Topaz, UT. His forty-year career in public library services and management included opportunities at the Montclair (NJ) Public Library, Decatur (IL) PL, Chicago PL, MA Board of Library Commissioners, Boston; New England Library Board, Augusta, ME; and the Stockton-San Joaquin County (CA) PL (S-SJCPL). After retirement from the S-SJCPL as City Librarian, Ken was elected President of the Joint Council of Librarians of Color Inc. Board of Directors. He is a former two-consecutive 4-year term-elected ALA Councilor at Large, a Past President of APALA, the 2007 ALA Equality Award recipient and a forty+ years member of the ALA.

Jane Yolen’s 400th book, Bear Outside, has just been published. Her books and stories have won a boatload of awards, including the Massachusetts, New York, and California Book Awards, a Caldecott Medal, three Christopher Medals, two Jewish Book Awards, nomination for National Book Award, two Nebulas, three Storytellers Awards, and many more. One book award even set her good coat on fire! She is a Grandmaster of three organizations: SFA, SFPA and World Fantasy Association. She was on the Board for SCBWI for forty-five years. Six colleges and universities have given her honorary doctorates for her body of work.

Michael Young is Humanities Librarian at the University of Connecticut and has taught the history of art and architecture at Bard College, Skidmore College, Union College, Columbia Graduate School of Architecture and Planning and, currently, at the University of Connecticut. His research interests include Baroque architecture in Central Europe, especially Bohemia, the arts of traditional Judaism, Baroque monasticism and religious imagery in Baroque Gardens. He has received fellowships from the International Research and Exchanges Board and the National Endowment for the Humanities.
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