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**Association of Jewish Libraries Conference 2022: *Together Again!*
Inspires Jewish Librarians**

Inspiring. Intimate. Welcoming. Accessible. Collaborative. Energizing.

These are just a few of the words used by Jewish librarians to describe the recent **Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) conference held at the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia June 27–29**. More than 200 participants—librarians, archivists, authors, illustrators, educators, scholars, volunteers, and guests—gathered to exchange ideas, learn, and network. The conference, AJL’s first in person gathering in three years, featured more than twenty-five sessions by over fifty presenters.

“It was so invigorating to finally connect with friends and colleagues over the last few days,” said incoming AJL president Michelle Chesner. “Zoom is great, but there’s no way to replicate the incidental chats over coffee and follow-ups after a presentation when meeting in person. I’ve learned so much, and am looking forward to further connections and opportunities to work together!”

Popular sessions included discussions by the winners and honorees of the Sydney Taylor Book Awards and the AJL Jewish Fiction Award; LGBTQIA+ Representation in Jewish Children’s Literature; Jewish Books on the Move; Jewish GLAM: Collecting Contemporary Judaica Across Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums; and the 2022 Feinstein Lecture by Dr. Arthur Kiron of the University of Pennsylvania, *Who Owns Jewish Cultural Heritage?* Participants also raved about the Monday-night concert by Sarah Aroeste, international Ladino singer/songwriter, author, and activist. A hospitality suite and happy hours provided informal settings where attendees could relax together. Tours of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish



History, the Rosenbach Library and Museum, Jewish Philadelphia, the Rare Book Room at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and the National Constitution Center rounded out the schedule.

“All of the sessions were fabulous, and it was wonderful to meet so many of the Sydney Taylor Award–winning authors and illustrators plus the AJL Fiction Award winners,” enthused Rachel Kamin, conference chair and director of lifelong learning at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, Illinois. “I’m coming home with new ideas to enhance my library collection and program offerings. And it was so cool to spend three days in the National Museum of American Jewish History, enjoying the exhibits and the stunning views of Independence Mall.”



About the Association of Jewish Libraries

The Association of Jewish Libraries is an international, professional organization that fosters access to information and research in all forms of media relating to all things Jewish. The Association promotes Jewish literacy and scholarship and provides a community for peer support and professional development. For more information, visit www.jewishlibraries.org.

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