June 19-June 22, 2023
AJL’s 58th Annual Conference
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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2023 AJL Digital Conference: A World of Possibilities! 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.

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, Lital Beer, Lenore Bell, Jackie Ben-Efraim, Emily Bergman, Sean Boyle, Paula Breger, Marcie Eskin, Jessica Fink, Elana Gensler, Dina Herbert, Isabelle Kargon, Eitan Kensky, Jerry Krautman, Amalia S. Levi, Rebecca Levitan, Andrew Lillien, Heidi Rabinowitz, Aviva Rosenberg, Linda Roth, Gail Shirazi, Lisa Silverman, Hannah Srour-Zackon, and Jeremiah Aaron Taub. A huge thank you as well goes to the conference co-chairs, Kathy Bloomfield and Rachel Kamin, 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 Dr. Christopher Silver on Jewish Music in North Africa, and the Feinstein Lecture with Dr. Malka Simkovich on the Written Word in Early Judaism; learn from all our award-winning authors and illustrators; and join us to celebrate 40 years of our peer-reviewed journal *Judaica Librarianship*. There is so much to choose from, so I encourage you to let the Webex 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 third digital conference. Please don’t hesitate to connect via Webex or in the chat!

I look forward to connecting in person once again in San Diego in 2024.

L’Shalom,

Michelle Margolis
AJL President
Shalom, Safranim and Friends!

We are excited to welcome you to the 2023 Association of Jewish Libraries Digital Conference: A World of Possibilities which features over 40 sessions by more than 120 presenters from across the United States, Canada, Israel, China, England, France, Germany, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, South Africa, and more! A World of Possibilities indeed!

None of what you will experience over the next few days would be possible without the hard work and loving effort of an amazing group of volunteers. These individuals took on enormous tasks (over and above their paid jobs!) meeting monthly, bi-monthly, and weekly to bring you an incredible array of programming:

Rachel Ariel  Jessica Fink  Heidi Rabinowitz
Lital Beer  Elana Gensler  Aviva Rosenberg
Lenore Bell  Dina Herbert  Linda Roth
Jackie Ben-Efraim  Isabelle Kargon  Gail Shirazi
Emily Bergman  Eitan Kensky  Lisa Silverman
Sean Boyle  Rebecca Levitan  Hannah Srour-Zackon
Paula Breger  Andrew Lillien  Jeremiah Aaron Taub
Marcie Eskin  Michelle Margolis

In addition, a multitude of people are Hosting and Co-hosting our Zoom meetings, while dozens more stepped up to moderate each session. This is truly a volunteer run conference. THANK YOU ALL!

Of course, Jerry Krautman, our amazing development consultant, was always close at hand to ensure we met our budgetary goals. Special thanks to all our sponsors and advertisers for supporting AJL.

With so much to choose from, we encourage you to let the WebEx App assist in organizing all the information you will need to make sure you do not miss one minute of this wealth of programming. WebEx can also make sure you connect with all your AJL friends – old and new - during the week. Fortunately, all sessions are being recorded, so do not worry that you will miss something. All recorded programs will be available for up to one year following the conference.

So, turn on your computers, log in to Webex, and get started…you don’t want to miss a thing!

Rachel Kamin & Kathy Bloomfield
2023 Conference Co-chairs

SAVE THE DATE: The 2024 AJL Conference will be June 24-26, 2024 in San Diego, California.
Rachel Ariel
Lital Beer
Lenore Bell
Jackie Ben-Efraim
Emily Bergman
Kathy Bloomfield
Sean Boyle
Paula Breger
Marcie Eskin
Jessica Fink
Elana Gensler
Dina Herbert
Rachel Kamin
Isabelle Kargon
Eitan Kensky
Jerry Krautman
Rebecca Levitan
Andrew Lillien
Michelle Margolis
Heidi Rabinowitz
Aviva Rosenberg
Linda Roth
Gail Shirazi
Lisa Silverman
Hannah Srour-Zackon
Jeremiah Aaron Taub
We are grateful to the following individuals and institutions for their generous support of AJL’s 2023 Digital Conference

Apples & Honey
CCAR
Dan Wyman
Dr. Greta Silver
Eric Chaim Kline
Jo Taylor Marshall
Kar-Ben Publishing
Levine Querido
OPALS/Mediaflex
Scholastic
Thank you to the following Members and Friends who generously contributed to our Annual Fund Campaign.*

Lillian Abensohn       Rachel Kamin       Arlene Ratzabi
Zachary Baker         Eitan Kensky       Ms. Raquel Rein
Lenore Bell           Joy Kinslover      Aviva Rosenberg
Jackie Ben-Efrain     Janet Kinney       Rabbi Matthew Rubinow and
Sharon Benamou        Arthur Kiron       Sara Rubinow Simon
Roberta Berman        Jerry Krautman and Jackie Weiss
Steven and Linda Blasnik
Kathy Bloomfield      Rina Krautwirth
Sherri Bloomfield     Rachel Leket-Mor
Sean Boyle            Rebecca Levitan
Paula Breger          Andrew Lillian
Hallie Cantor         Michelle Margolis
Mr. Edmund Case       C Andrew Martin
Julie Cohen           Mr. Elias Messinas
Helen Dennis          Shai Nachmany
Alison Epstein        Anna Olswanger
Marcie Eskin          Judy Petersen
Joseph Galron         Ken and Pam Portolan
Haim Gottschalk       Jenna and Michael Purtil
Alleen Grossberg      Linda Purtil
Dina Herbert          Heidi Rabinowitz
David Hirsch          Robert Rabinowitz

Recent Major Gift
Dr. Menahem Schmelzer Continuing Education Support Fund
Haim Gottschalk, Founding Donor

Endowment Funds Established
Shirley Epstein AJL Keynote Address
Rivka Yerushalmi, Founding Donor

Judaica Librarianship Journal
Anonymous

Barbara Young Leff Mentorship Fund
Steve and Cheryl Leff, Founding Donors

*Listing as of June 12, 2023
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.

Kar-Ben Publishing Scholarship
The Kar-Ben Publishing Scholarship, sponsored by Kar-Ben 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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>AJL BOARD 2022-2024</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President: Michelle Chesner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past President: Kathy Bloomfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>VP/President Elect: Sean Boyle</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: Andrew Lillian</td>
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<td>Secretary: Rivka Yerushalmi</td>
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<td>RAS President: Yermiyahu Ahron Taub</td>
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<td>RAS Vice President: Eitan Kensky</td>
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<td>SSCPL President: Rebecca Levitan</td>
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<td>SSCPL Vice President: Aviva Rosenberg</td>
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The Association of Jewish Libraries is dedicated to providing a safe and harassment-free environment for all of its conference attendees and has a zero-tolerance policy regarding harassment, intimidation, discrimination and retaliation. This includes inappropriate physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention, harassment, intimidation, and discrimination made on the basis of race, color, age, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, national origin, ancestry, disability, medical condition, religion, class, body size, veteran status, marital/domestic partnership status, citizenship, religious observance, or any other marginalized identity.

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

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

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

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

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

- All AJL conferences will designate one or more Safety Team Members who will be available during the conference to provide a safe space for members to report an incident. The Safety Team Member(s) will be identified in the Program Book on the Anti-Harassment Policy page and introduced at the opening session of the conference. The Safety Team Member(s) will report directly to the President and/or Conference Chair in charge.
- AJL has a dedicated email address for reporting any incident of harassment. Anyone who chooses to report an incident can find the Anti-Harassment Report Form on the website (About > Anti-Harassment Policy) or use the following email: harassment@jewishlibraries.org. Reports can be filled out anonymously or with identifying information. Reports should include the substance of the complaint, date, and whenever possible, a list of witnesses or a reference to the relevant URLs, if the offense occurred online. This email address will be monitored at all times, including during AJL events. AJL
will fully investigate all complaints and take whatever action is necessary and appropriate to prevent a recurrence. AJL will make every attempt to respond to a named complainant in a timely fashion.

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

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

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

last update 4/30/2018

The 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 2023 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARDS
Sponsored by Jo Taylor Marshall

**Picture Book Winner**
The Tower of Life: How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs
by Chana Stiefel, illustrated by Susan Gal

**Middle Grade Winner**
Aviva vs. the Dybbuk by Mari Lowe

**Young Adult Winner**
When the Angels Left the Old Country by Sacha Lamb

**Picture Book Honors**
Big Dreams, Small Fish by Paula Cohen, illustrated by Paula Cohen
The Very Best Sukkah: A Story from Uganda by Shoshana Nambi, illustrated by Moran YogeV
Sitting Shiva by Erin Silver, illustrated by Michelle Theodore

**Middle Grade Honors**
Honey and Me by Meira Drazin
Black Bird, Blue Road by Sofiya Pasternack
Ellen Outside the Lines by A. J. Sass

**Young Adult Honors**
My Fine Fellow: A Delicious Entanglement by Jennieke Cohen
Some Kind of Hate by Sarah Darer Littman
Eight Nights of Flirting by Hannah Reynolds

**Committee Members**
Martha Simpson (Chair), Debra S. Gold, Carla Kozak, Aviva Rosenberg, Talya Sokoll, Arielle Vishny and Kay Weisman
2022 JUDAICA BIBLIOGRAPHY AWARD  
sponsored by Mr. Eric Chaim Kline

Winner  
*Early Jewish Cookbooks: Essays on Hungarian Jewish Gastronomical History*  
by András Koerner

2022 JUDAICA REFERENCE AWARD  
sponsored by Dr. Greta Silver

Winner  
*Wartime North Africa: A Documentary History, 1934-1950*  
Sarah Abrevaya Stein and Aomar Boum

RAS Award Committee Members  
Eitan Kensky, Anna Levia, Sharon Benamou, Diane Mizrahi and Daniel Kestenbaum

2023 JEWISH FICTION AWARDS  
sponsored by Dan Wyman Books

Winner  
*The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land* by Omer Friedlander

Honor Books  
*Atomic Anna* by Rachel Barenbaum  
*Thistlefoot* by GennaRose Nethercott

Committee Members  
Paula Breger, Rena Citrin, Sarah Feldman, Laura Schutzman and Hannah Srour-Zackon

FANNY GOLDSTEIN AWARD
Rachel Leket-Mor

Committee Members  
Lisa Silverman, Jackie Ben-Efraim and Elliot H. Gertel

AJL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP & SUBVENTION
Anthony Catanese
LIBRARY ACCREDITATION

Basic Accreditation - Renewal
The Rashi School Library - Dedham, MA
Julie Koven, Librarian/Technology Integration Specialist

Advanced Accreditation – Renewal
Alpert Mendelson Library of Temple Solel of Northern San Diego County
Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA
Denise Ross and Renée Lucas, Co-Librarians

The Astor Judaica Library of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center
San Diego, CA
Melanie Rubin, Library and Senior/Adult Director

Blumenthal Library and Lainer Learning Center of Sinai Temple and Sinai Akiba Academy
Los Angeles, CA
Martha McMahon, Librarian

Greenberg Families Library, Soloway Jewish Community Center
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Carlie MacPherson, Senior Librarian

Meyers Library, Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel
Elkins Park, PA
Linda Roth, Director of Library Services

Accreditation Committee
Chair Shaindy Kurzmann, Arlene Ratzabi and Bruchie Weinstein
The Association of Jewish Libraries is proud to announce that longtime member Rachel Leket-Mor has been named the 2023 Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Winner. The award, named for the librarian, social activist and founder of National Jewish Book Month, is bestowed in recognition of loyal and ongoing contributions to the AJL and to the profession of Judaica librarianship.

Rachel Leket-Mor began her career as a Hebrew language editor at publishing houses in Israel. She edited translated fiction, scholarly articles, and monographs, mostly related to Jewish history, political science, and holocaust studies, in collaboration with authors, translators, and in-house editors. She began at Arizona State University (ASU) Library in 2002, first as the Jewish studies bibliographer, building collections, supporting curriculum and research, and providing specialized reference assistance. After two years in this position, she worked as a subject librarian for Jewish studies, religious studies, philosophy, and medieval and Renaissance studies until 2017 and is currently the open stack collections curator. In this role, she provides leadership for the selection, management, and disposition of print collections and openly accessible resources. She also works with, trains, and guides selectors on purchasing materials. She holds two master's degrees, a Master in information resources and library science from University of Arizona and an MA in translation studies from Tel Aviv University.

Rachel's involvement with AJL began when she joined the Association in 2003 as a new Judaica librarian. Her professional involvement in the Association began in 2007, when she co-chaired that year’s annual conference in Scottsdale, AZ, with Haim Gottschalk. The following year, she was elected vice president of AJL’s Research, Archives, and Special Collections Division (RAS), serving alongside RAS President Jim Rosenbloom (2008–2010). As RAS president (2010–2012), she collaborated with Schools, Synagogues, and Centers Division President Joyce Levine to conduct a member survey to study trends in Judaica libraries and anticipate future developments across the AJL divisions. The survey results, including the number of librarians in AJL libraries, their educational level, age and years of service, and retirement plans, were used in AJL strategic and leadership organizational planning. Rachel served on several AJL strategic planning committees, from 2008 to 2010 and from 2013 to 2016, and has served on the AJL Council since 2007 and on the Association’s Constitution and Bylaws Committee since 2022.

In 2012, Rachel became the editor of Judaica Librarianship, AJL’s peer-reviewed journal. A year later, she transferred the print-only publication to electronic publishing, set up the electronic platform and a new peer-review process, designed a new textual “nusah,” and acquired the Adobe InDesign skills needed for the production of scholarly works. She arranged for each issue to become open access 12 months after publication and moved the journal to complete open access when shifting it to a new electronic platform with the Open Journal Systems in early 2020. Opening the journal to all resulted in a significantly increased number of readers and better exposure to AJL. For the journal’s fortieth anniversary this year, she has led an AJL volunteer team in a project to upload the remainder of the journal’s back issues, following prior success with making volumes 9–16/17 available online.

Members of the 2023 Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Committee
Lisa Silverman, Jackie Ben-Efraim and Elliot H. Gertel
### PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

**Monday, June 19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-11 a.m. EDT</td>
<td>OCLC Update</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-11:45 a.m. EDT</td>
<td>Newcomer’s Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-1:30 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Keynote: Etched in Time and Grooves: The Sounds of North African Jewish History</td>
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<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 with Fanny Goldstein Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30-6:45 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Lesson Plan Showcase</td>
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<td>OCLC Tips and Tricks</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Different Ways to Tell a Story</td>
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<td>9-10:15 am EDT</td>
<td>Children’s Lit Publishers Roundtable</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Our Jewish Communities Connect Us: Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Family, Friends and the People We Meet Along the Way: Sydney Taylor Honorees and Committee</td>
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<td>2:45-4 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Branching Out: Expanding Your Reach Beyond the Library Walls</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15-4:45 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>New England Chapter Meetup</td>
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<td>5-6:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Book Club Facilitators Roundtable</td>
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<td>7-8:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>AJL Fiction Book Award Discussion</td>
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**Wednesday, June 21**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>9-10:15 a.m. EDT</td>
<td><em>There are No Lions in Tel Aviv</em>: A Discussion with Filmmaker Duki Dror and Susan Barocas</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>AJL Jewish Fiction Award: Meet the 2023 Winners</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Recommended Reads from the AJL Fiction Award Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45-4 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Nonfiction Favorites from the Sophie Brody Book Award Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>“Just Use Google or AI Chatbot”: Nu, Have You Forgotten Your Maimonides?</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Beyond the Book: New Databases in Jewish Music and Communal Life</td>
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## Thursday, June 22

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Presenting the Library and Archives Collection of the Jewish Community of the Ex-Yugoslav Countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Recommended Recent Jewish Children’s Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2:15 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Enduring Questions: Using Jewish Children’s Literature in Classrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45-4 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Feinstein Lecture: Books, Letter-Writing and the Written Word in Early Judaism Malka Simkovich</td>
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<td>5-6:30 p.m. EDT</td>
<td>Judaica Librarianship at Forty: An AJL Celebration</td>
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MONDAY, JUNE 19

10:00-11:00 a.m. EDT

OCLC UPDATE
Moderator: Neil Frau-Cortes

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

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

NEWCOMER’S WELCOME
Moderator: Heidi Rabinowitz

AJL Member Relations chair, Heidi Rabinowitz, invites all new members and first-time conference attendees to this orientation and overview of the Association of Jewish Libraries and our annual conferences. Meet some of the organization’s leadership, learn about ways to benefit from your membership, get tips on the best ways to enjoy the digital conference and start experiencing the warm and friendly vibe that is so characteristic of AJL.

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

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
ETCHED IN TIME AND GROOVES: THE SOUNDS OF NORTH AFRICAN JEWISH HISTORY
Moderator: Michelle Margolis

Christopher Silver
Does music remember what history forgets? To answer that question, this interactive talk will focus on the outsized role played by Jewish musicians in crafting North Africa’s soundtrack in the first half of the twentieth century. More broadly, by treating recorded music as a valuable historical source, we will explore how listening for the past might help us rethink modern Jewish history itself.
2:00-3:15 p.m. EDT

SCHOOLS, SYNAGOGUES, CENTERS, AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES (SSCPL) DIVISION MEETING
Moderator: Rebecca Levitan

Come see what SSCPL, led by President Rebecca Levitan, has been up to this year. As always, the highlight of the meeting will be the presentation of the Accreditation awards. Join us and recognize our colleagues who have worked so hard to achieve this distinction.

RESEARCH LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (RAS) DIVISION MEETING
Moderator: Jeremiah Aaron Taub

Join the RAS Division, led by President Jeremiah Aaron Taub, to discuss the past year’s programming, new ideas for future events, professional development opportunities and more.

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

AJL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Moderator: Michelle Margolis

Please review the minutes from last year’s meeting and let AJL secretary Rivka Yerushalmi know if any corrections are required. The meeting agenda includes an overview of AJL Board and Council accomplishments and a discussion about what is in store for 2023–2024. The Fanny Goldstein Merit Award will be presented to Rachel Leket-Mor. All conference participants are encouraged to attend and participate in the Zoom Background Challenge! We will be watching for the best backgrounds, both real and virtual, displayed during the meeting. Winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded at our closing session, Judaica Librarianship at Forty, on Thursday, June 22, at 5:00 p.m.

5:30-6:45 p.m. EDT

SSCPL LESSON PLAN SHOWCASE
Moderators: Rebecca Levitan and Aviva Rosenberg

Julie Koven, Judy Petersen, Arlene Ratzabi, Esther Schnaidman and Ellen Share
Refresh your program offerings with some inspiration from experienced librarians! Whether you’re new to a library position or an old-timer with loads of experience, there are always new ways to engage your patrons and connect with your community. Five librarians will describe Jewish-oriented activities they have successfully implemented, for a variety of library types and a variety of ages - from storyline series to digital citizenship lessons and beyond.
OCLC TIPS AND TRICKS
Moderator: Lili Brown

Jasmin Shinohara
Since 2005, OCLC has had the capability of adding non-Latin script to records. With many years cataloging Hebraica in OCLC, Jasmin will share tips that make the task a little easier. These include keyboard shortcuts (e.g., change the directionality of a field from left-to-right and right-to-left; move fields up and down without needing to cut/paste; the multifaceted function keys; etc.), text strings (e.g., input diacritics without opening special menus each time; add frequently used fields, such as “504 Includes bibliographical references.”; etc.), and macros (e.g., generate authority records directly from a bibliographic record; add 3xx fields to records; etc.). Jasmin will share how to optimize the OCLC toolbar ribbon for efficiency and include instructions for saving preferences in a backup folder so they are not lost with updated software versions or computer glitches.

7:00-8:15 p.m. EDT

DIFFERENT WAYS TO TELL A STORY
Moderator: Mirta Kupferminc

How to Teach with Wordless Picture Books
Tziporah Cohen
Wordless picture books help students develop inference, grow visual literacy, improve storytelling skills, expand vocabulary and aid interpretation of facial and body expressions. An added bonus, wordless stories are less intimidating to beginning and struggling readers and can be “read” in any language. With Jews living in almost every country in the world and speaking hundreds of languages, Jewish wordless picture books are instantly accessible without requiring translation, uniting global Jewry with universal stories. This presentation will use the author’s newly published wordless picture book, Afikomen, to illustrate using wordless picture books to teach the skills listed above.

Telling a Story vs Reading a Story
Peninnah Schram
Because of social media, we need to tell and read stories with the human voice as well as we need to hear stories told by the human voice. Stories still are powerful to teach values, inspire wonder and curiosity, offer healing, wisdom, history and faith! This session will explore the differences between telling a story without a book and reading a story with a book as a prop, in addition to presenting stories via Zoom rather than in person. Peninnah will also suggest that presentations of stories could be a combination of telling the story, reading the narrative, as well as to involve the listeners, especially students, in the story in other ways.
TUESDAY, JUNE 20

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

CHILDREN’S LIT PUBLISHERS ROUNDTABLE
Moderator: Jessica Fink

Michael Leventhal, Lili Rosenstreich, Joni Sussman and Vicki Weber
Take a behind the scenes look into the how and the why books are selected in children’s publishing today with representatives from Green Bean Books, Kalaniot Books, Kar-Ben Publishing and Apples & Honey Press.

JEWISH LIBRARIES IN PARIS: A WEALTH OF RESOURCES
Moderator: Emily Bergman

Jean-Claude Kuperminc, Judith Lindenberg, Hervé Roten and Ariel Sion
Paris has extraordinary, unique Jewish libraries (with librarians who are happy to share their knowledge and collections). Representatives from four libraries will describe their collections and services: the Alliance Israelite Universelle, the Institut Europeen des Musiques Juives, the Musee d’art et d’histoire du Judaisme and the Memorial de la Shoah. Many of these libraries have a shared catalog where the collections can be searched in one place.

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

OUR JEWISH COMMUNITIES CONNECT US: THE SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD WINNERS
Moderator: Martha Simpson

Chana Stiefel, Susan Gal, Mari Lowe and Sacha Lamb
Chana Stiefel and Susan Gal will discuss their picture book winner, The Tower of Life, Yaffe Eliach’s true story of how she recreated her beloved shtetl. Mari Lowe will take us to a close-knit Orthodox community with a supposedly haunted mikvah in middle grade winner Aviva vs. the Dybbuk. Sacha Lamb will tell us about the journeys of an angel, a demon and a nice Jewish girl to America in the young adult winner, When the Angels Left the Old Country.
HIGHLIGHTING COLLECTIONS AROUND THE WORLD
Moderator: Lital Beer

Bibliography of South African Jewry 2023 Versus 1997
Dr. Veronica Belling
Whereas the Bibliography of South African Jewry of 1997 included print items, only the Bibliography of 2023 includes a variety of digital contents. The 2023 Bibliography has been both updated to include new categories - such as "Gender" - and backdated to include categories previously omitted - such as "Cookbooks." This paper will consider how these changes and others reflect the current state of South African Jewry.

Jewish Knowledge in the Digital Age
Fruma Holland Billet and Liza Even-Israel
The Steinsaltz Archive will allow public access to thousands of lectures, lessons, pictures and correspondence previously unpublished, given by the Rabbi over decades. The Archive database will provide free access to Jewish knowledge, in line with Rabbi Adin's motto: Let My People Know. Jewish knowledge is the heritage of the entire nation and access must be democratized. The Steinsaltz Archive Database seeks to preserve and provide Jewish knowledge to all who wish to dive into the world of Jewish learning. In addition to the Steinsaltz archive, the entire Steinsaltz Elucidated Jewish Canon will be available digitally online for all.

Updates from the National Library of Israel
Dr. Chaim Neria
Annual update from the National Library of Israel - our new building, our new acquisitions and our new programs.

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

FAMILY, FRIENDS AND THE PEOPLE WE MEET ALONG THE WAY:
THE SYDNEY TAYLOR HONOR BOOKS
Moderator: Martha Simpson

Celebrate the creators of this year’s Honor books:
Picture books – The Very Best Sukkah: A Story from Uganda by Shoshana Nambi, Sitting Shiva by Erin Silver and Big Dreams, Small Fish by Paula Cohen (presented by her husband, Paul Martin)
Middle Grade – Honey and Me by Meira Drazin, Black Bird, Blue Road by Sofiya Pasternack and Ellen Outside the Lines by A. J. Sass.
Young Adult – My Fine Fellow: A Delicious Entanglement by Jennieke Cohen, Some Kind of Hate by Sarah Darer Littman and Eight Nights of Flirting by Hannah Reynolds.
The Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee members will booktalk the 2023 Notable titles.
THE MORE YOU KNOW … PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR ADDRESSING PROVENANCE IN JUDAICA COLLECTIONS

Yoel Finkelman and Michelle Margolis
The landscape of provenance Judaica collections is a broad and vast one, with complicated questions. AJL has partnered with the National Library of Israel to draft a practical guide for players in the ecosystem (curators, librarians, private collectors and booksellers) toward ethical and reasonable collecting and stewardship of Judaica materials. In this session, we will present the document, followed by responses and discussion.

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

BRANCHING OUT: EXPANDING YOUR REACH BEYOND THE LIBRARY WALLS
Moderator: Rebecca Levitan

Jessica Fink, Sonia Kozlovsky and Stacey Weinberg
Cultivating and nourishing community partnerships promotes your library and broadens your influence. Hear how programming within your library and out in the greater community generates support and creates long-lasting relationships.

REVEALING THE HIDDEN:
CATALOGING AS THE KEY TO UNCOVERING TREASURES
Moderator: Tali Winkler

Israel Shapiro and the Development of Library of Congress Judaica Class
Haim Gottschalk
In 1927, the Library of Congress published the BM subclass for Judaica. It was a momentous occasion, for when it was published, the subclass was fully robust. This presentation is the story of the birth of the Judaica subclass, the forces that helped make this happen and the people involved.

Ernest Worman and the Victorian Genizah: A Librarian’s Tale of Romance, Tax Evasion and Sudden Death
Nick Posegay
In 1898, Solomon Schechter donated the 190,000 manuscript fragments of the “Taylor-Schechter” Cairo Genizah Collection to the Cambridge University Library, on the condition that CUL fund a project to catalogue the material. This was estimated to take ten years under Schechter’s leadership. Four years later, Schechter was living in New York and no one was working on the Cambridge collection. Into this void stepped an unlikely hero: Ernest Worman, a 31-year-old Sunday-school teacher, serial tax evader and boating enthusiast. Seven years after that, Worman was dead, and Genizah work at CUL ceased for five decades. He left behind an unfinished catalogue, a personal archive and a legacy that is still entangled with the Cambridge University Library.
Cataloging Without Title Pages: Detective Work for Catalogers  
Daniel Stuhlman
When the publisher does not supply the bibliographic information normally needed for the library catalog, the job of a cataloger is challenging, sometimes intriguing and gratifying and other times complicated and frustrating. This presentation will discuss how these items end up in the library collections, reasons for cataloging these materials and the challenges that Hebrew and Yiddish present as a language of publication. In addition, the kinds of knowledge needed will be discussed as part of subject analysis. Each item is a detective story. The presentation will cover the tools and techniques for the detective work needed to create a full record. Join Daniel on a journey that a problem or puzzle solver will love to complete.

FROM POSSIBILITY TO PRINT: DEMYSTIFYING THE WORLD OF PUBLISHING  
Moderators: Aviva Rosenberg and Arielle Vishny

Liesa Abrams, Sam Farkas and Rena Rossner
This panel will be a chance to hear how agents and editors, with strong track records of success in mainstream commercial publishing, bring great books to print. Special focus will be paid to the challenges and nuances of publishing Jewish books at large mainstream publishers. Participants will discuss fact-checking vs. sensitivity reading, handling obscure details or controversial topics for wider audiences and more. We will pull back the curtain and give librarians a view of what really goes into creating a book. Everyone has a list of what they’d love to read or what their patrons are requesting: why haven’t we seen those books yet and how can we as readers and librarians let publishers know what we’re looking for?

4:15-4:45 p.m. EDT

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER MEETUP  
Moderator: Ari Kleinman & Sarah Feldman

Come join AJL New England (both current members and newcomers) for an informal session in order to learn more about the chapter's activities. We are a collective of academic, school and synagogue librarians and library workers in the New England area, and we would love to join together in order to brainstorm future meeting topics, joint library initiatives and social action projects. Please bring your favorite mug of your preferred beverage for a welcoming happy hour of introductions and collaboration.

BOOK REVIEWERS ROUNDTABLE  
Moderator: Sally Stieglitz

Sally Stieglitz, Ellen Drucker-Albert, Daniel Scheide, Laura Schutzman and Judy Ehrenstein
Join the AJL News and Reviews team of editors to learn about the rewarding experience of being a book reviewer for the Association of Jewish Libraries' professional publication!
5:00-6:15 p.m. EDT

BOOK CLUB FACILITATORS ROUNDTABLE
Moderator: Sally Stieglitz

_Rachel Kamin, Arielle Landau and Arlene Ratzabi_
Do you lead a Jewish book club or want to start one? Come hear about new resources and ideas to enhance your book club, learn how to integrate guest authors into your discussions (both in-person and on Zoom) and share your tried and true book club favorites.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS’S ISRAEL AND JUDAICA SECTION UPDATE
Moderator: Jeremiah Aaron Taub

_Haim Gottschalk, Roger Kohn, Abraham Asher Lewis, 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, as well as general Library of Congress news.

7:00-8:15 p.m. EDT

AJL FICTION BOOK AWARD DISCUSSION
Moderator: Paula Breger

Join the members of the AJL Fiction Award committee for a discussion of the 2023 award winner, _The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land_ by Omer Friedlander.

STOLEN AND CENSORED: RESTORATION OF TEXT AND OWNERSHIP
Moderator: Stefanie Halpern

_Nazi Books on Our Shelves_
_David Fasman_
Shortly after Hitler’s rise to power, the Prussian State Library was restructured, birthing a new entity - the Deutsch-Ausländischer Buchtausch (DAB, German Foreign Book Exchange). This presentation will focus on the DAB as an organization - recounting the relationships they maintained, especially with the University of Denver, the materials they disseminated and their relative enigmatic status in comparison to other book thieves, such as Himmler, Rosenberg, and Goebbels. Additionally, the appetite for literature and cultural heritage by the Nazi’s will be examined - focusing on pleas made to the international academic community, the libraries of Nazi officials and the use of literature as a form of intellectual colonization.
Censorship of Hebraica: External and Internal
David Levy
This presentation will examine four types of censorship of Hebraica and Judaica. Namely (1) Ancient Roman governmental censorship from the book of Maccabees to illustrative sugyot (passages) in the Talmud including Ta’anit and Avodah Zarah, (2) Church Censorship from the early Middle Ages on that manifested itself in the confiscation, censoring and burning of sacred Rabbinic texts, (3) Government censorship from the fascist Nazis in Germany and the Arrow Cross in Hungary to the extreme left Communists in Russia and elsewhere. The Fourth and final section considers internal Rabbinic censorship of other rabbinic works with an illustrative focus on the Maimonidean controversy.

Uncovering Nazi Looted Books in an Academic Library
Diane Mizrachi
Using HathiTrust, curators at the Jewish Museum in Prague identified six books in the UCLA collection that had belonged to their community library until they were looted by the Nazis during WWII. They gently requested their return. No discussion of similar experiences among North American academic libraries nor professional guidelines or policies on the repatriation of stolen material was found. Diane will share a brief historical background of Nazi policies towards Jewish books, how these particular books reached the Jewish Museum library, the repatriation process they developed, why and how the Museum is publishing this case as broadly as possible, and their plans for the numerous books or questionable provenance that have since been discovered.

TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

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

THERE ARE NO LIONS IN TEL AVIV: A Discussion with Filmmaker Duki Dror and Susan Barocas
Moderator: Gail Shirazi

The film is the story of the Chief Rabbi of Copenhagen’s Jewish community, who would come to be known as Rabbi Doolittle. Rabbi Max Shorenstein arrived in Tel Aviv in 1935 in order to fulfill a longtime dream: to build a zoo and teach the children of Palestine-Eretz Yisrael about the love of animals. His dream had come true and against all odds, the Tel Aviv Zoo became the city's greatest attraction. Envy, greed and corruption by city officials had him banished from the very paradise he himself built. Rabbi Shorenstein is very attracted to people or topics that no one else will deal with such as unnamed, unknown heroes and people who have had or are having a very big impact but which no one notices, or topics that are not commonly dealt with. There are No Lions in Tel Aviv (2019) is one of these stories. Using film clips, Duki will discuss the making of the film and the research done to tell the amazing story behind the Tel Aviv Zoo and its founder.
11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. EDT

AJL JEWISH FICTION AWARD: MEET THE 2023 WINNERS
Moderator: Paula Breger

Omer Friedlander, Rachel Barenbaum and GennaRose Nethercott

2JEWSIH 2GLAM: DISPLAYING AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE ACROSS GALLERIES, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, AND MUSEUMS
Moderator: Dana Herman

A GLAMorous Collaboration: An Installation of Magnificent Early Renaissance Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts
*Abigail H. Meyer*
This paper will examine a recent and ongoing collaboration between the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In a newly curated installation of two magnificent, early Renaissance Hebrew illuminated manuscripts, the collaboration of library and art museum and respective scholarship will tell the story of cross-cultural exchange through the art of the book and provide the public with the opportunity to view two of the world’s most lavish works in one case. In understanding the two institutions’ mutually beneficial relationship over the last several decades, it will highlight and support the trend for creative collaborations within the G.L.A.M. community of galleries, libraries, archives and museums.

Data Lifecycles in Pandemic Temporalities
*Grace Elizabeth Dy and Ellen Perleberg*
Almost as fast as it became popular, “in these unprecedented times” became a cliche. Writers, archivists, and citizens have struggled to periodize “COVID time” to structure data and narratives that change faster than institutions can keep up. What and who determines the end of a crisis? When does an emergency practice become “everyday life”? Whose “unprecedented times” are these when queer Jewish people draw on lived memory of the AIDS crisis to make sense of the pandemic, when public health is again entangled with labor rights, racial justice and so-called culture wars? This talk will draw on research experience, memory studies and intersectional frameworks to discuss strategies for managing 2020s data and your communities’ COVID time.

The Search is On: Curating Museum Exhibits
*Asaf Galay*
There are many research tools available for curators to consult while planning an exhibit. These can include personal archives, libraries, individual interviews with the subject/the family/or their friends, other museum exhibits and galleries, etc. Once the material is gathered, how does a curator decide what to include and how to arrange these items to create an exhibit? Case studies will be discussed using exhibits Asaf curated at Bet Ha-Tefutsot (Museum of the Jewish People) in Tel Aviv: Bob Dylan (“Forever Young”), Jewish Humor (“Laughing at History”), Jewish fashion designers (“Dream Weavers”) and “Amy Winehouse – A Family Portrait.”
1:00-2:15 p.m. EDT

RECOMMENDED READS FROM THE AJL JEWISH FICTION AWARD COMMITTEE
Moderator: Dina Herbert

Paula Breger, Rena Citrin, Sarah Feldman, Dina Herbert, Laura Schutzman and Hannah Srour-Zackon
Each year, the AJL Fiction Award Committee reads over seventy books with Jewish content. Come hear all about the committee’s favorites from 2022 and 2023. The group will 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!

THE TALES THEY TELL: UNDERSTANDING EARLY MODERN JEWISH IMPRINTS
Moderator: Rachel Greenblatt

Judaica in Early European Books
Vanessa Freedman and Caroline Kimbell
ProQuest’s well-established Early European Books aims to encompass all European printed material from the early modern period, but currently includes just 169 Hebrew titles. Starting in April-May 2023, UCL will add 269 Hebrew works and 503 works of Judaica in other European languages, increasing the profile of Judaica within digitised collections. This presentation will cover the identification, preparation and description of the books, the challenges of scanning a mixture of left-to-right and right-to-left paginated books and the importance of individual copies of this period, where features such as annotation, illustration and provenance make multiple copies of the same edition effectively unique texts for historical study.

Styles of Hebrew Printing in the 16th and 17th Centuries
Isabelle Kargon
Isabelle will give an aperçu on the different styles of printing of books in Hebrew alphabet from the 16th and 17th centuries, through a few examples encountered while cataloging books from the Special Collections of the Library of Congress. The Library holds books that were printed by various printers in Europe, Asia and Africa, and which treated many subjects. They show an interesting diversity in style and typography.

First Steps in Yale’s Footprints Project
Konstanze Kunst
In early summer 2023, Konstanze will set up a project at Yale University Library whose goal it is to enter provenance information, censorship signatures, seller’s notes, et cetera of Yale’s rich Judaica collection into the Footprints: Jewish Books Through Time and Place database. The project will start with Yale’s 45 Hebrew incunabula, followed by around 450 Hebraic books printed during the sixteenth century. This presentation will discuss the planning of the project, possible difficulties and their solutions, and hopefully some interesting books with their footprints as well.
REPRESENTING JEWISH LIFE IN THE EVERYDAY: EXPLORING NEW CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE GRADE AND YOUNG ADULT FICTION
Moderator: Raquel M. Rein

Gayle Forman, Sarah Mlynowski, Leila S. Sales and Courtney Sheinmel
Jewish kids’ books have often been historical, trauma-focused or both, but today more and more authors incorporate everyday contemporary Jewish life into their novels. In this panel, four middle grade and young adult writers discuss how and why they choose to weave Jewish characters, experiences and themes into their books. This means Hebrew school classes in Leila Sales’s The Museum of Lost And Found, Shabbat dinner in Sarah Mlynowski’s Best Wishes, a Passover seder in Gayle Forman’s Just One series, and tikkun olam in Courtney Sheinmel’s The Kindness Club. As publishing prioritizes representation and own voices, these authors write characters for whom being Jewish isn’t the conflict and isn’t the point - it’s just part of who they are.

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

NONFICTION FAVORITES
FROM THE SOPHIE BRODY BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE
Moderator: Janice Levine

Barbara Bibel, Sean Boyle, Rachel Fryd, Rachel Kamin and Adela Peskorz
The Sophie Brody Medal is presented by the Reference & User Services Association of the American Library Association to highlight outstanding works of Jewish literature which merit special attention by general adult readers and the librarians who work with them. Fiction, nonfiction and poetry that explores the Jewish experience is considered for the award. Come learn about the 2023 winners and honor books as well as other recommendations published in 2022, recent 2023 releases, and upcoming new books to have on your radar. Four committee members, representing academic, public and synagogue libraries, will discuss their favorite non-fiction titles to add to both your personal to read list and to your library collection.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTIONS
Moderator: Elliot H. Gertel

Crossing Borders: Creating a Class on Jewish Women’s Devotional Literature
Jeanne-Marie Musto
Interest in collections of tkhines, that is, Jewish women’s prayerbooks, primarily in Yiddish, has blossomed since the groundbreaking work of Chava Weissler in the 1990s. That is because these works speak to the growing field of gender studies, to the appeal of more personal forms of religious expression (especially in light of the pandemic) and to the evergreen theme of immigrant experience. Due to language barriers, however, they are largely known only through second-hand accounts and translation. The tkhines held in the Dorot Jewish Division provide an opportunity for introducing general audiences to the physical characteristics and structure of tkhines, how they contribute to understanding the past and how they can inform the present.
The Whole World is a Theater: Primary Sources in Yiddish Theater
Amanda Seigel
New York Public Library holds a wealth of primary sources for Yiddish theater research, including play texts, music scores, ephemera, books and periodicals and archival materials. Learn more about efforts to make the collection more accessible to the public and find out how researchers are utilizing these materials for scholarly and creative work.

Treasures of Ukrainian Judaica in the Dorot Jewish Collection
Lyudmila Sholokhova
In 2022, The New York Public Library responded to the current events in Ukraine by hosting an Open House titled "Ukraine and its People" and by implementing a special emergency fellowship program for the Ukrainian scholars in cooperation with Fordham University. The Open House featured a large Jewish section. While working on both initiatives, Lyudmila discovered a fascinating trove of rare Ukrainian Jewish materials at the NYPL. The scope and value of these materials would not be so obvious without thorough study of the Library's catalogs. In her presentation, Lyudmila will focus on a selection of the early Hebrew imprints from Ukraine, Yiddish books illustrated by prominent avant-garde artists and the rare editions of Ukrainian-Yiddish translations from the early 20th century.

BRINGING PJ LIBRARY TO THE WORLD
Moderator: Dainy Bernstein

Patrick Coyle, Rachel Kozupsky, Madelyn Travis and Karin Zingerevitz
PJ Library sends more than 670,000 monthly Jewish storybooks to families in 36 countries and in 7 languages. These stories became essential during the pandemic and PJ Library welcomed 15 new countries to the program since 2020. With international growth comes questions that are of great interest to educators, librarians and children’s book experts. How do we ensure the books suit a variety of different cultures, languages and denominations? How can diversity be maintained within translation and content requirements? Join international PJ Library staff to get an inside look at how their teams try and tackle these questions as they discuss book selection, Jewish culture and identity and the different communities that constitute their global family.

5:00-6:15 p.m. EDT

JUST USE GOOGLE OR AI CHATBOT - NU, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR MAIMONIDES!?
Moderator: Shira Schindel

Sean Boyle
This session will show how one can align helping someone with their Jewish literacy needs to Maimonides' Eight Levels of Charity (the Eight Levels of Achieving Jewish Literacy). It will be demonstrated that a well-trained librarian and a well-funded library is the only way of achieving the highest level of Jewish Literacy. Learn how displays, programs, services and even book donations relate to the Eight Levels of Achieving Jewish Literacy. Also learn how to demonstrate value of the library program and advocate for proper training and funding support in terms that are relatable to Jewish administrators.
Possibilities, Realities and Plans: The Digital Yiddish Theatre Project

*Joel Berkowitz and Amanda Seigel*

The initial idea for the Digital Yiddish Theatre Project (DYTP) was based entirely on possibility: the use of digital tools, in the hand of a skilled research team, to study, preserve, and teach about Yiddish theatre and drama. In 2013 that team was formed, consisting of academics, independent scholars, librarians and DH specialists. A decade on, the DYTP has digitally published an important reference work, launched an interactive database of plot synopses of Yiddish plays and maintains a blog featuring articles by internal and guest contributors. This presentation will outline challenges of maintaining a long-term collaborative project, highlight the role of librarians in the research team and discuss plans for the near future.

Search and Metadata on Yiddish Book Center's Website

*Amber Clooney*

The Yiddish Book Center’s organizational website includes a large collection of digitized archival materials as well as growing collections of born-digital content in many formats. Amber will discuss the work necessary to reference, crosswalk and integrate the metadata from multiple collections and institutions to create a cohesive user experience, with some highlights from current major projects, including an implementation of advanced search, a massive metadata audit and reconciliation, the integration of large-scale transcription work and OCR text. Some updates on the Universal Yiddish Library project, which will provide OCR search of nearly all Yiddish books ever published from four institutions, will also be included.

Storing Yiddish Trash: A Shund Database

*Saul Noam Zaritt*

Popular Yiddish literature is often referred to as shund, meaning “trash,” a designation that carries with it a pejorative judgment articulated by nineteenth and twentieth century critics, as well as contemporary scholars. This has resulted in the nearly complete neglect of the thousands of titles, in book form and as serialized in the Yiddish press, that make up the vast majority of Yiddish literature - the most read, but least reread texts. To begin countering this gap in scholarship, Saul will present on his database project, shund.org, a searchable bibliography of popular Yiddish fiction and a platform for digital reading and scholarship. Such a resource can help reshape how we tell the story of Yiddish literature beyond canonical hierarchies.

7:00-8:15 p.m. EDT

**BEYOND THE BOOK:**

NEW DATABASES IN JEWISH MUSIC AND COMMUNAL LIFE

*Clara Byom and Christina Crowder*

The Klezmer Archive (KA) project is creating a universally accessible, useful digital archival tool for interaction, discovery and research on available information about klezmer music and its
network of contemporary and historical people. Unlike traditional archives, this will be a digital native archival resource that will not hold physical objects. Instead, the project uses archival principles to document a conceptual abstraction of music, its manifestations (sheet music, CDs, YouTube videos, etc.), events, movement of tunes, the networks of people associated with its past, present, and future, and will facilitate user-generated commentary and connections. This paper will introduce the KA project and the DH challenges it addresses.

**Digital Archives between Publications and Manuscripts**  
*Ari Kelman*

This presentation will explore the work of the Berman Archive, a free and publicly available online collection of some 40,000 documents of a genre formerly known as "gray literature," publications that fall between the material that traditionally has landed in archives or libraries, and those published in scholarly journals or popular journalism. In the Jewish community, there are thousands of reports, evaluations, articles, research papers and other forms of printed matter that comprise a literature of American Jewish communities, which the Archive collects. The presentation will share the Berman Archive collection efforts and examine some of the challenges of this work.

**The Cantorial and Synagogue Music Archive: From Treasure to Ephemera and Back**  
*Jeremiah Lockwood*

The Cantorial and Synagogue Music Archive (CSMA) is a new project of the Cantors Assembly Foundation. The CSMA takes as its goal the preservation of the personal music manuscript collections of elder cantors, the establishment of an online archive of digitized manuscripts and the creation of a website that will serve as a point of dissemination for important musical material. In this talk, scholar/musician Jeremiah Lockwood will focus on highlights from the collection of Cantor Robert Kieval, a faculty member of the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) and former president of the Cantors Assembly, including rare handwritten scores from the early 20th century.

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 22**

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

**THE JEWISH LIBRARY HANDBOOK: UPDATE ON THE NEW EDITION**  
*Moderator: Sean Boyle*

*Linda Blasnik, Sean Boyle, Marcie Eskin, Joyce Levine, Heidi Rabinowitz, Anjelica Ruiz and Ellen Tilman*

*The Jewish Library Handbook*, which has been helping AJL members for over 40 years, is currently going through its latest revision. Get a sneak peek of what is included and hear from the contributors as they explain how they take advantage of the knowledge contained in the handbook in their own library’s use.
Significant Jewish Collections in Ex-Yugoslav Countries

*Biljana Albahari*

On the eve of the Second World War, over 80,000 Jews lived in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. During the Holocaust, more than 80% of the members of the Jewish community perished. Numerous funds and archives that testified about Jewish life before the Holocaust also were destroyed during the war. Today, the number of Jewish communities and their members is almost symbolic. Despite this, several smaller institutions and individuals in the area of ex-Yugoslavia are working on the collection, preservation and visibility of archival and library material. Through this presentation, the collections of several Jewish institutions from the former Yugoslav republics, which continue to cooperate closely today, will be presented.

Digital Collection ‘Jewish Periodicals’ in the National Library of Serbia

*Tamara Butigan-Vučaj*

Thematic digital collection “Jewish Periodicals” was created for the first time for the project Migration in the Arts and Sciences, when the first eight titles were digitised and published in Digital NLS and Europeana. In 2022, this collection gained momentum with the cooperation agreement signed with the National Library of Israel, to also be published on its Jewish Press Portal. The collection is broadening to digitised periodicals kept at Serbian libraries and Jewish Historical Museum and will greatly contribute to illuminating the centuries-old existence of Jewish communities in the Balkans, but also to understanding the wider social context of the historical periods in which they were published.

For Future Studies: Jewish Life in Novi Sad and the South Bačka Region

*Olga Ungar*

"For Future Studies: Jewish Life in Novi Sad and the South Bačka Region: Documents from Libraries and Archival Inventories" is a project of gathering archival sources that offer insight into the once thriving and diverse Jewish life in this region. The project included collecting of Jewish-related documents held in local archives, creation of descriptive metadata and special software that suited our needs in the building of the digital database. The project took place between September 2018 and January 2020. Olga will talk about this project, its course and its findings, as well as about a financial difficulty encountered in regard to its publishing and maintenance on the Internet.

Jewish Community of Split – History and Heritage Collections

*Ana Lebl and Margita Mirčeta Zakarija*

Together with librarian Margita Mirčeta Zakarija, Ana will present what they have and what they dream of establishing in Split. The catalogue of their modest library and the Morpurgo archive are already available online, but they would also like to tell the story of what was lost during WWII, how life continued afterwards and what efforts and plans they have for the future, including the establishment of a small cultural center with a research desk, reading room and a museum. Their work includes cataloguing and scanning and collecting documents and other Split-related Jewish items from all over the world, in order to expand the data base and collection, mostly lost in WWII. Purchasing relevant books, old and new, are also among their priorities.
The Creation of Isserlein’s Library
Marjetka Bedrač
Ever since it was established, the Synagogue Maribor has gradually been publishing and acquiring books and other materials, such as ephemera, CDs and DVDs on Jewish history, culture and tradition. The book collection comprises approximately 1,000 units, hence it could be characterized as a small collection. Nevertheless, it also includes a few publications that are not kept in any of the libraries throughout Slovenia which gives this collection a special value. The collection has not been properly inventoried and catalogized yet and is thus inaccessible to the public. In this presentation, plans for inventorying and cataloguing the book collection of the Synagogue Maribor will be presented, as well as some issues accompanying such plans.

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

RECOMMENDED RECENT JEWISH CHILDREN’S BOOKS
Moderator: Heidi Rabinowitz

Rebecca Levitan, Heidi Rabinowitz and Talya Sokoll
Past Sydney Taylor Book Award committee members and chairs will share recent and forthcoming Jewish children’s and YA titles recommended for Judaic collections. This is a good way to learn about worthy titles beyond those recognized by the Sydney Taylor Book Awards.

THE HOCHSCHULE FÜR DIE WISSENSCHAFT DES JUDENTUMS IN EXILE
Moderator: Renate Evers

Jenny Wilde: The Last Librarian of the Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums
Bettina Farack
Bettina’s presentation examines the life and work of Jenny Wilde (1872-1949), a significant figure in the field of librarianship in the German Reich during the early 20th Century. Wilde served as a librarian at the Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums where she took care of the institution’s collection as well as its students and their everyday worries. Wilde continued to perform her duties as a librarian even when she was forced into labor at the Theresienstadt ghetto in 1943. In Theresienstadt, she cataloged books which had been seized by the Nazis. Bettina’s aim is to explore the ways in which Wilde approached and perceived her forced labor to contribute to our understanding of the experiences of Jewish librarians during the Holocaust.

Living in South America: Hochschule fur Wissenschaft des Judentums and Its Legacy
Irene Munster
The great majority of Central European exiles – numbering between 50,000 and 90,000 - arrived in South America after 1933. The network of religious, cultural and educational institutions they generated impacted the local Jewish communities, as well as the host countries’ culture. Although there are partial studies on this immigration and its effects on the subcontinent, many aspects, such as the impact of the Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums students and staff have not yet been fully addressed. The purpose of this presentation is to introduce some of these individuals, the work of CENTRA and its influence in the creation and development of the only Jewish research library in South America.
The Legacy of the Hochschule in the U.S. and Canada

Felix Steilen

Felix’s presentation follows former Hochschule members to North America. The school’s material legacy is closely tied to the fate of the books in its library and its intellectual legacy is inseparable from the lives of its teachers and students. The U.S. and Canada became a haven for former Hochschule staff who fled persecution and who were able to continue teaching at various existing institutions. Emil Fackenheim, Leo Strauss, Abraham Heschel, Alexander Guttmann and Fritz Bamberger are the names of some better-known exiles who were able to continue their work overseas. Here, the Hochschule’s intellectual legacy also includes former American visiting students such as Jacob Radar Marcus, who became a leading historian of modern Judaism.

THE JBI LIBRARY: LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Arlene Arfe, Jane Blecher, Jennifer Horowitz and Livia Thompson

The JBI Library provides free Braille, Large Print and Audiobooks of Jewish interest for blind, visually impaired, reading disabled and physically handicapped individuals around the world. JBI has significantly increased their efforts to work with Jewish publishers of children’s books and liturgical texts. As a staff panel, they will share their collaborative efforts, showcase some of their materials and discuss some of the challenges they are facing. Their presentation will also include basic JBI information and how libraries can access their materials, and how to make sure that patrons who might benefit can register for free services.

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

ENDURING QUESTIONS:
USING JEWISH CHILDREN’S LITERATURE IN CLASSROOMS

David Bloome, Laurie Katz and Evelyn Freeman

In an interview format, the authors of the recently published book, Enduring Questions: Using Jewish Children’s Literature in Classrooms, will discuss their motivation for writing the book and their commitment that Jewish children’s book should be shared with all children as part of diverse, multicultural literature. Inspired by Isaac Bashevis Singer’s belief that children “are deeply concerned with … eternal questions”, the authors will talk about how enduring questions form a framework for the book. They will describe how they engaged teachers across the country in a variety of settings to use a Jewish children’s book in their classroom and write a vignette for the book. Time will be provided for questions from conference attendees.

SEPHARDIC AND MIZRAHI ARCHIVES:
SOURCES FROM SPAIN, GREECE, AND IRAQ

Iraqi Jewish Archives: The Way Forward

Carol Basri

The presentation will cover what should happen to the Iraqi Jewish Archives (IJA) including clips from the documentary “Saving the Iraqi Jewish Archives”. What is the history of the IJA? What is the status of digitization? Is there a complete list of all documents in the IJA? Who should have
custody of the IJA? Who owns the IJA? These questions will be discussed from a legal and cultural heritage perspective.

Using the Spanish Archives in pre-Expulsion Jewish Family History
Jeffrey Malka
Most Jewish surnames were only adopted when required by law in the mid-19th century. Many Sephardic surnames, however, are older and some were consistently hereditary and unchanged since the 12th century. In his latest book *Eight Centuries of a Sephardic Family*, the speaker details how the combination of such an ancient Sephardic surname and the existence of profuse, yet not fully explored pre-expulsion Spanish archives, allowed him to trace his family back to medieval times. In this brief presentation, Jeff will demonstrate both the richness of pre-expulsion Spanish archives as well as how to overcome the inherent difficulties in deciphering the medieval script, differing phonetics and identifying name variants.

Greek Synagogues: History and Architecture
Elias Messinas
In 1993, Elias Messinas initiated a survey project to document and preserve the history and architecture of the synagogues of Greece, many of which have been demolished. Through the use of archival material from around the world and personal interviews with archaeologists, architects, Holocaust survivors and others, this project not only preserves physical history, but presents a narrative of human stories documenting the rich heritage and culture of the Jews of Greece. The unique archive of collected material has now been digitized. During this presentation Dr. Messinas will discuss the project's achievements, challenges and long-term objectives.

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

FEINSTEIN LECTURE:
BOOKS, LETTER-WRITING AND THE WRITTEN WORD IN EARLY JUDAISM
Moderator: Sean Boyle

Malka Z. Simkovich,
During the Second Temple period, Jews began to collect their writings in archives and libraries. Why did libraries become so important to Jews during this era, and what can they tell us about early Jewish attitudes towards sacred texts? This lecture will shed light on these questions by exploring early Jewish sources that refer to book collection and production as the realm of both divine and human activity.
5:00-6:30 p.m. EDT

JUDAICA LIBRARIANSHIP AT FORTY: AN AJL CELEBRATION
Moderator: Arthur Kiron

_Bella Hass Weinberg, Zachary Baker and Rachel Leket-Mor_

In the closing program of the 2023 Digital Conference, we will celebrate forty years of _Judaica Librarianship_, the peer-reviewed journal of the Association of Jewish Libraries. Founding editor Bella Hass Weinberg, past editor Zachary Baker and current editor Rachel Leket-Mor will discuss their distinct contributions to the journal, reflect on the changes that the journal went through since it was established in 1983 and comment on editorial processes and publishing trends. Stick around for a Kahoot! Judaica Librarianship trivia game.
NOTES
**Liesa Abrams** is VP, Editor-in-Chief of the Labyrinth Road imprint at Random House Children’s Books. Prior to creating Labyrinth Road, Liesa worked at other publishers editing middle-grade and YA titles. Authors she launched from debut to bestseller include Rachel Renee Russell (Dork Diaries), Shannon Messenger (Keeper of the Lost Cities), and CSK John Steptoe award winner Tracy Deonn (Legendborn). Liesa also edited bestselling titles from Brandon Mull, Lisa McMann, Jodi Lynn Anderson, Lynn Weingarten and others. Her focus on stories revolving around themes of identity and self-discovery is reflected in the Michael L. Printz honor book, *A Heart in a Body in the World* from Deb Caletti, the Sydney Taylor honor novel *The Last Words We Said* by Leah Scheier and in ALA Rainbow List Top Ten selections like Shaun David Hutchinson’s *Brave Face* and Sarah Gailey’s *When We Were Magic*.

**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 Jewish cultural heritage in Serbia. She published five books and other professional texts in journals and proceedings. Biljana won the second prize given by the Federation of Jewish Communities of Serbia and the Order of Yitzhak Navon for outstanding contribution to the preservation, dissemination and learning of the Yugoslav Jewish heritage.

**Arlene Arfe** started working at JBI on 9/11. She has worked most of her life with Jewish non-profit organizations. She started as part-time in the library at JBI and worked her way up to Head Librarian. Arlene speaks with patrons daily and helps them pick out books or check the status of their orders. Before coming to JBI, Arlene worked at Yeshiva University and then Lincoln Square Synagogue and then took off to raise her children. Born and raised in Cleveland, OH, she has been very involved in the Jewish community her whole life.


**Rachel Barenbaum** is the author of the critically acclaimed novels *Atomic Anna* and *A Bend in the Stars*. She is a prolific writer and reviewer. Her work has appeared in the *LA Review of Books*, *Harper’s Bazaar* and more. She is a scholar-in-residence at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute at Brandeis and is the founder/host of the podcast Check This Out, which spotlights new and diverse authors. Rachel has degrees from Harvard in business and in literature and philosophy. She is an elected member of Town Meeting in Brookline, MA.

**Susan Barocas** is a former director of the Washington Jewish Film Festival and documentary filmmaker. Most recently she co-founded a new project, *Savor: A Sephardic Music & Food Experience* (savorexperience.com), with the singer/songwriter Sarah Aroeste. Susan is also a chef and food writer, and served as guest chef at three of the Obamas’ White House Seders.

**Carole Basri** is a lawyer. She is a visiting professor at Peking University School of Transnational Law and Pericles Law School. In 2003, Carole was a member of the U.S. Department’s “Future of Iraq” Project and a member of the Coalition Provisional Authority with the Iraqi Reconstruction Development Council for
Ambassador Bremer in Baghdad. She is the executive producer of a trilogy of films on Iraqi Jews. The trilogy, screened in over 80 premiere film festivals and was featured on PBS and JLTV. Carole received a BA from Barnard College, Columbia University and a JD from New York University School of Law. With Adriana Davis, she co-directed and produced Saving the Iraqi Jewish Archives.

Marjetka Bedrač is the coordinator and organizer of cultural programs at the CJCH Synagogue Maribor. She was initially employed in the Maribor Regional Museum where she gained experience in all fields of museological work and specialized in museum documentation. Since 2006, Marjetka has been employed at the CJCH Synagogue Maribor, where for some years she has also held the position of acting director. Marjetka has staged more than five exhibitions and curated around 70 exhibition projects, while as the main coordinator, she has been involved in the organization of more than 200 cultural events and projects. In addition, she is also the author of numerous introductory texts for exhibition catalogues and brochures. Veronica Belling served as the Jewish Studies Librarian at the University of Cape Town Libraries for 31 years. She is currently affiliated with the Kaplan Centre, University of Cape Town as a researcher, bibliographer, author and translator of books and articles on the subject of South African Jewry.

Joel Berkowitz is Professor of English and Director of the Stahl Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. A historian of the Yiddish theatre and translator of Yiddish drama, he is the author of Shakespeare on the American Yiddish Stage, editor of Yiddish Theatre: New Approaches, and co-editor of Landmark Yiddish Plays: A Critical Anthology and Inventing the Modern Yiddish Stage. He is the co-founder, with Debra Caplan, of the Digital Yiddish Theatre Project (yiddishstage.org).

Barbara Bibel has been a reference and collection development librarian for over forty years. She is retired from the Oakland Public Library in California and currently serves as the volunteer librarian at Congregation Netivot Shalom in Berkeley. She reviews books for Booklist, Library Journal, the Jewish Book Council, and AJL. She is a founding member of the Sophie Brody Medal Committee. She has a BA in French from UCLA, an MA in Romance Languages from Johns Hopkins and an MLS from UC Berkeley.

Jane Blecher has been Studio Manager at JBI Library since January 2010, directing the operations of six state-of-the-art recording studios. She has over 35 years of experience running professional radio, television, and film recording studios in New York City.

David Bloome is Professor Emeritus from Ohio State University. He has conducted research on reading and literacy education, classroom interaction and argumentative writing. Before becoming a researcher, he was a classroom language arts and reading teacher. The author of 21 books and over a hundred articles, he is a former president of the National Council of Teachers of English and the National Conference on Research in Language and Literacy. He is a student of Yiddish language, culture and literature. His most recent book, co-authored with Evelyn B. Freeman, Rosemary Horowitz, and Laurie Katz is titled Enduring Questions: Using Jewish Children’s Literature in the Classroom.

Sean Patrick Boyle is the librarian at Congregation Keneseth Israel, in Allentown, PA, and received his MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh. He is the current AJL Vice President, President-elect, and is a former SSCPL Division President. Sean is also the chair of the Advocacy committee for AJL’s SSCPL division. He is a retired U.S. Naval Officer with 27 years of Naval Service, with over 12 of those years being stationed or deployed overseas.

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 and Yiddish cultural exploration series and facilitates the temple’s book club. A former attorney and bookseller, Paula is now a freelance copyeditor. She is the chair of the AJL Jewish Fiction Award Committee and serves as AJL’s public relations/communications chair.

Clara Byom, with a fearless curiosity and multi-instrumental virtuosity (clarinet, accordion, keyboard, electronics), has forged a successful musical career as a versatile performer, composer and arts administrator whose work stretches across multiple genres - from classical (new and old) to traditional folk, indie rock to electronic music. She serves as Development Director for the Klezmer Institute, Coordinator
for Yiddish New York and Co-Director of the New Mexico Contemporary Ensemble. She holds a Master of Music degree from the University of New Mexico in clarinet performance and musicology (2017) and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Luther College (2012).

**Rena Citrin** is recently retired from Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School in Chicago, where she served as Library Director of the nursery through 8th grade school for 23 years. While Rena is basking in retirement and aspires to learning pickleball and new needlepoint stitches, she is still deeply immersed in the book world. She moderates a weekly book group for seniors at the Chicago Mitzvah Campaign, is a member of the AJL Fiction Award Committee as well as the JBC Picture Book Committee, and is called upon to give book talks in her community. She is a former member of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee. Rena is also working toward certification as a docent at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

**Amber Clooney** holds an MLIS from Simmons College and a BA in English from George Mason University. She has worked in various academic and public libraries with a primary focus on digital resources, collections and providing access to digital content.

**Jennieke Cohen** is a Filipina-Jewish American author of young adult historical fiction. Her books have been translated into multiple languages. Jennieke’s debut novel, *Dangerous Alliance*, was a Junior Library Guild selection, and her latest novel, *My Fine Fellow*, was named a 2023 Sydney Taylor Award Honor Book. Jennieke studied English history at Cambridge University and has a master’s degree in professional writing from the University of Southern California. She has worked as a nonfiction ghostwriter, a literary agent’s assistant, a writing consultant to Silicon Valley tech companies and as a teaching artist. When not researching little-known corners of history, you’ll find her cooking up a storm, singing show tunes or enjoying her native Northern California. Read more on Jennieke’s website www.JenniekeCohen.com or say hi on Twitter or Instagram @Jennieke_Cohen

**Paula Cohen**, daughter of Sam and Shirly Cohen, was born in Albany, NY. Her grandparents owned a small neighborhood grocery store, not unlike the one depicted in her debut picture book, *Big Dreams, Small Fish*, the publication of which was the culmination of a years-long effort. Sadly, only a few weeks after achieving her dream, Paula passed away unexpectedly on February 24, 2022. A naturally gifted artist, Paula earned a BA in illustration from Parsons School of Design in New York. Paula worked as a freelance illustrator and shared her talents in her NJ community by running arts programs through the local parks department. Her husband, Paul Martin, is honored to speak about Paula’s book and about the talented, wonderful, beautiful woman she was.

**Tziporah Cohen** has an MD from Harvard Medical School and an MFA in writing for children and young adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Her debut novel, *No Vacancy*, for middle-grade readers, was a Sydney Taylor Award Honor book and a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. She is the author of the picture book biography *On the Corner of Chocolate Avenue: How Milton Hershey Brought Milk Chocolate to America* (Clarion Books), the picture book *City Beet* (Sleeping Bear Press) and the wordless picture book *Afikomen* (Groundwood Books), illustrated by Yaara Eshet. Tziporah lives in Toronto, Canada with her husband and three children.

**Patrick Coyle** is the Author and Illustrator Stewardship Coordinator at PJ Library, where he helps facilitate unique initiatives for authors and other creators. He is also an artist, originally from the UK, and now lives in New York with his wife and two young children. Patrick especially enjoys running “PJ Library focus groups” with his kids and learning something new every time.

**Christina Crowder** is executive director of the Klezmer Institute, where she oversees the Klezmer Archive Project, the Kiselgof-Makonovetsky Digital Manuscript Project (KMDMP) and year-round programming in support of Ashkenazic expressive culture. Christina is a seasoned performer and experienced educator who plays klezmer accordion and tsimbl. Ashkenazic dance music is a passion, along with a continued exploration of the Moldavian/Bessarabian corner of the klezmer universe.
Duki Dror Darwish, born in Tel Aviv and educated at UCLA and Columbia College in Chicago, is an internationally award-winning documentary filmmaker. His extensive body of work spreads over multiple topics and forms - character-driven journeys, experiment biographies, investigative docs and historical epics, have won him international recognition and success. With acute sensitivity, innovative style and engaging storytelling, Dror creates parables that convey human dilemmas and challenge the viewer's conventions.

Meira Drazin is a prolific freelance writer who has published dozens of articles about parenting and topics of Jewish interest. Her debut novel, *Honey and Me*, published by Scholastic Press, was the winner of the Sydney Taylor Book Award 2023 Middle-Grade Honor and was a Kirkus Best Middle-Grade Books and Best Middle-Grade Friendship Stories of 2022 selection. Pitched as a ‘Jewish Penderwicks’ or All-of-a-Kind Family meets Judy Blume, the novel follows an 11-year-old girl as she navigates sixth grade in the shadow of her fearless best friend. Meira grew up in Toronto, built an adult life in New York, and now lives in London with her husband and their four children. Learn more at meiradrazin.com.

Grace Elizabeth Dy is the Events and Outreach Coordinator for the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Washington and is also an MA counseling psychology student at the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology. They serve as co-principal investigator with Ellen Perleberg of the sociolinguistics project “Yallah Y’All: The Development and Acceptance of Queer Jewish Language in Seattle” at the University of Washington.

Marcie Eskin is the Librarian at Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah (Wilmette, IL) and Librarian/Education Coordinator at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El (Highland Park, IL). Active in AJL and the local Chicago chapter for more than twenty years, she has held various leadership positions including Chapter President and AJL Conference Registrar. In 2022, Marcie taught the AJL Classroom course "Introduction to Elazar for Synagogue Libraries." She holds a BA in government from Cornell University and a master's degree in library and information science from Dominican University.

Liza Even-Israel is the Director of Marketing at the Steinsaltz Center. Liza holds a degree in political communications from Hadassah Academic College in Jerusalem and has many years of experience in public relations and event planning for various Jewish organizations and individuals. Her responsibilities at the Steinsaltz Center include managing social media accounts and newsletters for the Steinsaltz Center in English and Hebrew and managing PR events for the Center and outreach databases. Liza is passionate about Jewish education and is excited to assist the Steinsaltz Center in expanding Rabbi Steinsalz's legacy into the digital age for individuals of all ages, furthering the Rabbi's mission to "Let My People Know".

Bettina Farack is a PhD candidate at the University of Erfurt. Her research focuses on the history of the library of the Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem and is part of the project "German-Jewish Heritage Relocated: Postwar Dispersion of the Library of the Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums", a joint research project of LBI Jerusalem and Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture - Simon Dubnow in Leipzig. Bettina has studied library and information science, philosophy and Protestant theology at the Humboldt University of Berlin. From 2019 to 2022, she managed the library and the archive of the Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem. Her research focuses on library history, collection theory and provenance research.

Sam Farkas is a literary agent at Jill Grinberg Literary Management where she also handles the subsidiary rights for the agency's entire catalogue. Her list spans categories and genres. Above all, she is drawn to exemplary writing, regardless of whether a project is high fantasy, clever picture book or anything in between. She grew up in Cherry Hill, NJ and graduated from the College of William & Mary in 2015. When not reading, she can be found attempting to try all the food in New York City.

David Fasman is an archivist at the Beck Archives of Rocky Mountain Jewish History, at the University of Denver, in Colorado. His research areas include literature and cultural exchange during the Third Reich, banned books, censorship and intellectual freedom. David received his BA in political science from the American Jewish University (University of Judaism), and his MLIS from the University of Denver. Alongside his daily work at the Beck Archives, David is adjunct faculty for the school of library and information science.
at the University of Denver, a lecturer for the adult education program on campus, as well as an occasional guest lecturer in both undergraduate and graduate courses around campus.

**Sarah Feldman** is the librarian at Gann Academy, a Jewish high school in Greater Boston. Sarah has worked in both public and private schools and as a book editor for trade and educational publishers in London and New York, including a memorable stint at the Guinness Book of Records (UK). Sarah holds a BA in English literature from the University of Sussex (UK), a PGCE from Sheffield Hallam University (UK), and an MSIS from the State University of New York at Albany. She is the editor of the Spotlight feature for the Massachusetts School Library Association newsletter and is co-chair of the New England Chapter of AJL.

**Jessica Fink** began her career as an educator at the University of Florida, where she received her degree in elementary education. She continued her education at the University of Pennsylvania, earning a master’s in elementary education. She taught in Philadelphia until she moved to New York City to complete a master’s in library science at The Pratt Institute, while also teaching at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School. After settling in Baltimore, Jessica taught at the Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community Day School and later became the librarian at the Louise D. and Morton Macks Center for Jewish Education. In 2022, the CJJE Library became its own program under the Associated and Jessica became the first Executive Director of the “new” Jewish Library of Baltimore.

**Dr. Yoel Finkelman** served until 2022 as Curator of the Haim and Hanna Salomon Judaica Collection at the National Library of Israel.

**Gayle Forman**, an award-winning author and journalist, has written several bestselling novels for young adults, including the Just One Series, *I Was Here, Where She Went* and the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *If I Stay*, which has been translated into more than 40 languages and in 2014 was adapted into a major motion picture. *Frankie & Bug*, Gayle’s first middle-grade novel was published in 2021 and was a *New York Times* notable children’s book of the year. She lives in Brooklyn, NY with her family.

**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.

**Evelyn B. Freeman**, professor emerita at The Ohio State University, taught courses in children’s literature and language arts, prepared elementary teachers, and was an affiliated faculty member with OSU’s Melton Center for Jewish studies. She has served as co-editor of *The Journal of Children’s Literature* and *Bookbird: A Journal of International Children’s Literature*. Evelyn has co-authored six books on topics related to children’s literature, numerous book chapters and journal articles. A former president of the Children’s Literature Assembly of the National Council of Teachers of English and the United States Board on Books for Young People, she co-authored *Enduring Questions: Using Jewish Children’s Literature in Classrooms*.

**Omer Friedlander** was born in Jerusalem in 1994 and grew up in Tel Aviv. He is the author of the short story collection *The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land*, winner of the AJL Fiction Award and a finalist for the Wingate Prize. The book was also longlisted for the Story Prize and was a Sophie Brody Medal Honor Book. He has a BA in English literature from the University of Cambridge and an MFA from Boston University, where he was supported by the Saul Bellow Fellowship. Omer is a Starworks Fellow in Fiction at New York University. His collection has been translated into several languages, including Turkish, Dutch and Italian. His writing has been supported by the Bread Loaf Fellowship and Vermont Studio Center Fellowship. Omer is currently teaching creative writing at the MFA program at Columbia University.

**Rachel Fryd** has been a public librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia for the past 18 years. In that time, she has been a children's librarian, a branch manager, city wide programs & partnerships coordinator, and finally a collection development librarian specializing in materials for young adults and graphic novels for teens and adults. She has served on multiple award committees including the 2014 Randolph Caldecott
Susan Gal began her illustration career as a poster and calendar artist in Los Angeles. Her love of drawing lively characters earned her an internship with Walt Disney Feature Animation and she became a member of the original animation team at the Disney MGM Studios in Orlando, FL. Although she loved the Disney years in Florida, Susan returned to her native California to follow her true passion of writing and illustrating children’s picture books. In recent years, Susan’s work has been recognized with the Sydney Taylor Award, a National Jewish Book Award, a Robert Sibert Honor, the Russell Freedman Non-Fiction Award for a Better World, and several library and editors’ choice lists. See more of Susan’s work at galgirlstudio.com.

Asaf Galay is a museum curator and an award-winning filmmaker. He was the head curator of exhibits on Bob Dylan (“Forever Young”), Jewish Humor (“Laughing at History”), Jewish fashion designers (“Dream Weavers”) and “Amy Winehouse - A Family Portrait” at Beit Hatefutsot (Museum of the Jewish People). His films include The Muses of Bashevis Singer, about the Nobel Prize-winning Yiddish author, The Hebrew Superhero and The Adventures of Saul Bellow about the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, which won a Library of Congress/Ken Burns award in 2019. He has also directed numerous award-winning documentaries for Israeli television, including a series called Hasidistock about pop music in the Ultra Orthodox world.

Haim Gottschalk earned his MEd from the University of Judaism (now American Jewish University) in Los Angeles and his MLS from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. While a student at IU, he did his library internship at the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit at the University of Cambridge, where he learned to work with and handle genizah fragments. Additionally, he worked with Judaica collections at various academic and synagogue libraries. Haim was co-editor of Yiddish Modernism: Studies in Twentieth-Century Eastern European Jewish Culture (Slavica, 2014) Currently, he is a cataloger in the Israel and Judaica Section at the Library of Congress and is the current chair of the Librarianship & Education committee.

Dina Herbert is a librarian for the federal government. She is a past president of AJL and will begin a term on the AJL Jewish Fiction Award Committee in 2023. She lives in Northern Virginia with her spouse and two small, well-read children.

Jennifer Horowitz, JBI Braillist and Special Publications Editor, joined JBI in 2003 and took over as Braillist when her predecessor retired. A graduate of the Yeshivah of Flatbush, Barnard College and Teachers College at Columbia University, she is also an experienced copy editor, choral singer and bar/bat-mitzvah tutor. Jennifer is active with JOFA and the Town Hall in New York and is happy to share her love of Judaism and reading with all.

Rachel Kamin has been a synagogue librarian for over 25 years and has worked at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, IL since 2008, currently as the Director of Lifelong Learning. She received the 2021 Fanny Goldstein Merit Award from AJL in recognition of her ongoing contributions to the profession. Rachel has served on the committees for the Sydney Taylor Book Award, the AJL Jewish Fiction Award and the Sophie Brody Book Award and also leads book discussions for four Chicago area synagogues. She holds a BA in history from Grinnell College and a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Michigan.

Isabelle Kargon is currently a librarian for cataloging and acquisitions in the Library of Congress. She was previously contracted for two years with the library to catalog rare Hebrew books from its Special Collections.

Laurie Katz is Professor in the Department of Teaching & Learning at The Ohio State University. Her areas of strength include teacher education of young children and their families from birth - 5th grade, inclusive classroom practices, narrative structures of young children, and relationships between families, schools/childcare centers and communities. Her most recent book is co-authored with Evelyn B. Freeman, Rosemary Horowitz and David Bloom and is titled Enduring Questions: Using Jewish Children’s Literature in the Classroom.
Professor Ari Y. Kelman is the Jim Joseph Professor of Education and Jewish Studies in the Stanford Graduate School of Education. He is the Director of the Berman Archive at Stanford, which documents American Jewish communities.

Caroline Kimbell worked as a publisher for 15 years, headed the Business Development team at the UK National Archives for 9 years, was Associate Director at the University of London's Senate House Library where she established a licensing programme for rare books and archives, and is currently leading UCL’s partnership with ProQuest to digitise pre-1700 Judaica.

Roger Kohn is a librarian in the Israel and Judaica Section in the Asian and Middle Eastern Division of the Library of Congress where he catalogs a wide range of materials, including audio-visual materials and electronic resources. He has been a longtime participant in the Library’s BIBFRAME Pilot Project. Dr. Kohn recently stepped down from the Editorial Board of *Judaica Librarianship* after having served for eighteen years. Dr. Kohn regularly contributes book reviews to *AJL News and Reviews*.

Julie Koven is the Librarian/Technology Integration Specialist at The Rashi School in Dedham, MA, a Pre-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 was the 2020-21 president of the Greater Boston Independent School Collaborative Library Association.

Carla Kozak, now retired, had a 34-year career as a youth librarian and collection development specialist with the San Francisco Public Library. Serving on the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee these past two years was an honor, a privilege, and most of all a joy. Ah groisen dank to her fellow committee members, and yasher koach to all the honored authors and illustrators and their wonderful books. When Carla was eight years old, she took her older sisters’ All-of-a-Kind Family books (first editions) and never returned them, but she gave them to her great-niece for Hanukkah last year.

Sonia Kozlovsky, a life-long Baltimorean, has been working in the library field since being a student at the Baltimore Hebrew College. She earned degrees in history and Jewish history and began her library career at the Baltimore Hebrew College (University). She went on to become the librarian at Krieger Schechter Day School in Baltimore for 37 years. Sonia is now the Community Librarian at The Jewish Library of Baltimore, continuing to work with children and for the needs of the Baltimore Jewish community.

Rachel Kozupsky is the Director of International Programs at the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, where she oversees PJ Library's 35 (and counting) international programs. Prior to PJ Library, Rachel worked in Middle East foreign policy and global government affairs. Rachel has a master's degree in global affairs with a concentration in the private sector from NYU and received her bachelor's degree from Northeastern University. She has lived in Israel, Panama and South Africa. She currently resides in Westchester, NY with her husband, 2 little ones and a dog!

Konstanze H. Kunst has been the Joseph and Ceil Mazer Librarian for Judaic Studies at Yale University since August 2021. She earned a master's degree in Judaic studies and history from the Freie Universität Berlin and a master’s degree in Jewish history from the University of Pennsylvania. Before coming to Yale, Konstanze worked, among others, as Hebraic manuscript cataloguer of the Cecil Roth Collection at the University of Leeds Library, as cataloguing assistant of the Mordkhe Schaekhter collection at the Milton S. Eisenhower Library of Johns Hopkins University and as educator at the Jewish Museum Berlin. Konstanze loves Apfelkuchen, punk rock, hiking and her husband - but, above all, her dog Zhenya.

Jean-Claude Kuperminc was trained as a Jewish historian and librarian in Paris. He is the Director of the Library and Archives of the Alliance israëlite universelle, and as such, has participated in many international cooperative projects with libraries in Israel, Europe and the USA. He is President of the Rachel Network of Jewish Libraries and has created the Digital Library of the Alliance. Jean-Claude is particularly interested in the history of Jewish looted libraries during WWII. He is involved in the French Committee for Jewish Archives and in many associations relevant to Jewish culture.
Sacha Lamb is a 2018 Lambda Literary Fellow in young adult fiction, and graduate in library and information science and history from Simmons University. Since publishing their debut short piece, *Avi Cantor Has Six Months to Live* (2017), Sacha has regularly contributed book reviews to the Jewish Book Council and appeared in the Foreshadow YA anthology online with “Epistolary” (2019). Their debut novel, *When the Angels Left the Old Country*, is a Sydney Taylor and Stonewall Award winner, a Printz Honor book, and a National Jewish Book Award finalist. Sacha lives in New England with a miniature dachshund mix named Anzu Bean. Find her online at sachalamb.wordpress.com

Arielle Landau is the Jewish Book Council’s Program Associate. She graduated from The University of Texas at Austin where she studied journalism. Before joining the Jewish Book Council, she spent two years working at Boston University Hillel as an Engagement Associate and a year working at Club Z as an Educator and NY Regional Coordinator. She has written op-eds for London-based multi-media start-up, ShoutOutUK, and worked with the Austin American-Statesman’s social media department for her university’s Senior Capstone.

Ana Lebl holds a BA in Near Eastern archaeology from the University of Belgrade and MLitt from St. Andrews University in Scotland in maritime archaeology. Ana also had museum studies and worked part time in a Jewish historic museum in Belgrade, Serbia for three years. She lately focuses her activities on the maintenance and management of Jewish material heritage and is rebuilding a database in preparation for the opening of a small cultural center with a Jewish museum in Split. Ana has been a president of the Jewish Community of Split.

Rachel Leket-Mor started her editorship tenure of *Judaica Librarianship* in 2012. She transferred the journal from print to electronic publishing, which facilitated the standardization of the peer review process and the move to a delayed open access publishing model. In 2020, she moved *Judaica Librarianship* to the Open Journal Systems platform and transformed it into a full open access journal. This year, she has led an AJL volunteer team in a project to upload the remainder of the journal’s back issues, following prior success with making volumes 9 - 16/17 available online. Rachel is the Jewish Studies librarian and open stack collections curator at Arizona State University Library.

Michael Leventhal is a writer and publisher with more than 25 years of experience. He has written feature articles for newspapers including *The Times, The Sunday Express, The Jewish Chronicle* and *Delicious* magazine. He edited the *Jewish Quarterly* journal, was the co-author of *Jews in Britain*, author of a children’s book, *The Chocolate King* and compiled a fundraising book of Jewish chocolate recipes called *Babka, Boulou & Blintzes: Jewish Chocolate Recipes From Around The World*. Michael was the founder of the food charity GefilteFest and still spends too much time thinking about food and eating chocolate.

Joyce Levine (retired) has served on the Board and Council of AJL in various capacities including Chair of the Accreditation Committee, President of the SSC Division (2010-12) and Chair of Publications. She is the Editor of *The Jewish Library Handbook* (AJL, 2016) and General Editor of *Creating a Collection: A Basic Book List for Judaic Libraries* by Marlene Schiffman and Leslie Monchar (AJL, 6th ed., 2015). She established two Jewish high school libraries, Hebrew Academy of Nassau County and North Shore Hebrew Academy High School. Joyce earned her graduate degree in library science at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem with a specialization in Judaica librarianship.

Rebeccca Levitan is a librarian at the Baltimore County Public Library Pikesville Branch. She is the Children's Engagement Coordinator for her branch. Rebecca is also the SSCPL president, AJL News & Reviews Children's and YA co-editor, AJL seals manager, and the president of the AJL Capital Area chapter, as well as a past Sydney Taylor committee member and chair. As a mother of three young children, Rebecca has a passion for quality Jewish children's literature. If she's not knitting in her free time, she's most likely reading a romance novel.

David Levy serves as a librarian at Lander College for Women and received a PHD in Jewish studies and an MLS (2002) from UMCP. David has published around 50 books and thousands of book review and articles.
Abraham Asher Lewis joined the Israel and Judaica Section in the Asian and Middle Eastern Division of the Library of Congress in November 2022 after having served as a volunteer. Mr. Lewis holds a Bachelor's of Talmudic Law from Yeshiva College of the Nation's Capital as well as certificates in data science from Montgomery College and the General Assembly. Prior to joining the Section, he was Head Librarian and Archivist at the Yeshiva College of the Nation's Capital. Mr. Lewis has also worked as a librarian at the Jewish Rockville Outreach Center where he provided cataloging, classification and instruction and helped to develop a software solution for their Hebrew and English collections. Additionally, at the Silver Spring Jewish Center, he facilitated the transport of 1,500+ donated books to add to the Center's library where he sorted the donation with administrators and selected books to add to the collection.

Judith Lindenberg has been in charge of the library and archives at the Museum of Jewish Art and History since 2018. A specialist in the Yiddish world after the Second World War, she edited the book *Premiers savoirs de la Shoah* (2017) and is currently working on the history of the Parisian Jewish art museum (*"Le musée d'art juif de Paris (1948-1998)",* Archives Juives, 2022/2).

Sarah Darer Littman is the critically acclaimed author of middle-grade and young adult novels, including *Some Kind of Hate* (Sydney Taylor Honor), *Backlash* (Iowa Teen Book Award, Grand Canyon Reader Award) and *Confessions of a Closet Catholic* (Sydney Taylor Award). Many of Sarah's young adult novels explore the intersection of teen life and technology, which fascinates her as she grew up without smartphones, social media or even the Internet. As well as writing novels, Sarah teaches in the MFA program at Western CT State University, and at the Yale Writers' Workshop. She is also an award-winning columnist. Find her online at sarahdarerlittman.com.

Jeremiah Lockwood is a scholar and musician, working in the fields of Jewish studies, performance studies and ethnomusicology. He is currently a Yale Institute of Sacred Music Fellow.

Mari Lowe has too little free time and spends it all on writing and escape rooms. As the daughter of a rabbi and a middle school teacher at an Orthodox Jewish school, she looks forward to sharing little glimpses into her community with her books. She lives in New York with her family, menagerie of pets and robotic vacuum. She can be found on Twitter at @marilwrites and at https://marilowe.com/.

Jeffrey S. Malka is the author of *Sephardic Genealogy*, the first edition of which received the AJL 2002 Reference Book of the Year Award. A retired orthopedic surgeon, he is an expert in Sephardic genealogy. At its 2012 Paris conference, Jeffrey was awarded the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies' Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering work on Sephardic genealogy. Dr. Malka has lectured at the Library of Congress, IAJGS conferences, US genealogy societies and internationally in Canada, Spain, Portugal, France and Turkey.

Michelle Margolis is the Norman E. Alexander Librarian for Jewish Studies at Columbia University and the President of AJL. She co-directs Footprints: Jewish Books Through Time and Place, and, with Yoel Finkelman, is leading a working group of Judaica provenance in libraries and archives. Michelle also co-leads AJL and JTS's new Judaica Librarianship Certification Program.

Elias V. Messinas is an architect and urban planner. He earned a master's from Yale (1992); BDes (Hon.) from Bezalel (1988); MSc from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) on 'Environment and Development' (2022); PhD from NTUA (1999), on the history and architecture of Greek synagogues - in-situ surveys and documentation and archival research; and Ally Kaufmann Fellow at the Technion Faculty of Architecture (2002). Since 2016, Elias is the leading architect for the preservation of synagogues in Thessaloniki, Trikala and Kos – including research in the Kos 1930s Italian archive, and the Italian Museum archive in Jerusalem. He is Curator of the 400-entries of Jewish Archaeological Registry for the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and the author of books and articles.

Abigail Meyer is responsible for the scholarship, research, acquisitions, expansion and programming of the Met's Judaica collection, drawing greater attention to objects and art relating to Jewish history, cultural heritage and experience. Previously the head of department of Ceremonial Objects and Fine Art at the leading boutique Judaica auction house in New York City, Abigail continues her work with rare Hebrew
books and manuscripts. As a freelance curator and educator, she creates exhibitions, is involved in several art initiatives, crafts museum tours, and lectures on Jewish art history, material culture and decorative arts. Abigail also consults for museums, universities, research institutions and private collectors as an independent fine-arts professional.

**Diane Mizrachi** received her MLIS from Bar Ilan University and has worked primarily as a reference/instruction librarian at Beit Berl College, Israel, USC and UCLA in Los Angeles. She completed her PhD at UCLA in information studies and was named Librarian for Jewish and Israel Studies in 2018.

**Sarah Mlynowski** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Whatever After series, the Magic in Manhattan series, *Best Wishes, Gimme a Call*, and a bunch of other books for teens and tweens, including the Upside-Down Magic series, which she co-writes with Lauren Myracle and Emily Jenkins and which was adapted into a movie for the Disney Channel. Originally from Montreal, Sarah now lives in Los Angeles with her family.

**Irene Munster**, born in Argentina, served as Library Director of the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano (Latin American Rabbinical Seminary) and later as Library Director at the Max von Buch Library, at the Universidad de San Andrés. In the U.S., she was the Bibliographer for Latin America & Iberia and the first Jewish Studies librarian at Duke University, and Chief of Libraries at the InterAmerican Development Bank. Currently, she serves as Library Director of the Priddy Library, a branch of the University of Maryland Libraries. Her research interests focus on Jewish immigration to South American countries and the preservation of memory, with an emphasis on Jewish libraries and booksellers.

**Jeanne-Marie Musto** brings a background in art history and library history to her collaborative work with colleagues in the Dorot Jewish Division of the New York Public Library.

**Shoshana Nambi** grew up in the Abayudaya Jewish community in the eastern part of Uganda. She and her daughter, Emunah, live in New York City while Shoshana studies to become a rabbi at Hebrew Union College. After her rabbinic training, Shoshana will become the first female rabbi in Uganda. She is the author of *The Very Best Sukkah: A Story from Uganda*. Not only was the book awarded a Sydney Taylor Book Award Honor in the Picture Book category, but it was also a National Jewish Book Award winner. To learn more, visit KalaniotBooks.com

**Dr. Chaim Meir Neria** is Curator of the National Library’s Haim and Hanna Solomon Judaica Collection. Dr. Neria is a native of the Old City of Jerusalem and a graduate of Yeshiva Ma’arava, Beith-El, and Beith Orot. Dr. Neria completed his doctoral thesis at the University of Chicago in 2015 on Hebrew translations and interpretations of Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics in the Middle Ages. He also holds an MA in conflict resolution and peace studies from Notre Dame University, South Bend, and a BA in international relations from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Prior to his appointment as Curator of the National Library’s Haim and Hanna Solomon Judaica Collection, Dr. Neria worked for seven years at the Office of the President of the State of Israel, as Chief Speechwriter and Head of the Strategy Department. Dr. Neria is a married to Einat, a social worker, and resides in the Kiryat Menachem neighborhood of Jerusalem.

**GennaRose Nethercott** is a writer and folklorist. Her first book, *The Lumberjack’s Dove*, was selected by Louise Glück as a winner of the National Poetry Series. Whether authoring novels, poems, ballads or even fold-up paper cootie catchers, her projects are all rooted in myth - and what our stories reveal about who we are. She tours widely, performing strange tales (sometimes with puppets in tow), and researches/writes for the podcast Lore. She lives in the woodlands of Vermont, beside an old cemetery. *Thistlefoot* is her debut novel.

**Sofiya Pasternack** is a mental health professional, the highly-distractible author of Jewish middle-grade and YA fantasy, and prone to oversharing gross medical stories. She enjoys speaking to crowds about writing and mental health. Sofiya does not enjoy running, but she does it anyway. She is actually a gremlin in a bad wig. Sofiya is the author of *Anya and the Dragon, Anya and the Nightingale*, and *Black Bird, Blue Road*. All three of her books are about Jewish kids kicking butt, and all three have won the Sydney Taylor Book Award Honor for Middle Grade. *Anya and the Nightingale* is an overachiever and was a National
Jewish Book Award Finalist! Sofiya does stuff all over the Internet! Twitter: @sofipasternack Insta: @sofipasternack YouTube: youtube.com/c/sofiyapasternack

Ellen Perleberg (she/her) is a master of science in library science student at UNC-Chapel Hill and co-principal investigator with Grace Elizabeth Dy of the sociolinguistics project “Yallah Y’all: The Development and Acceptance of Queer Jewish Language in Seattle” at the University of Washington.

Adela Peskorz is a Prof. Emerita at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, MN, where she has taught both information studies and adolescent literature and created the nationally recognized “Teens Know Best” review group. She was the Coordinator of YA Services at the Minneapolis Public Library and was a YA librarian at The New York Public Library and The Newark Public Library. Adela has served on multiple ALA committees, including the Sophie Brody, Printz Award, Best Books for Young Adults, Quick Picks, William C. Morris Award, ALEX Awards, Outstanding Books for the College Bound, the Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Literature, and the Rainbow List. She currently serves on the Board of the Kerlan Collection of Children’s Literature.

Judy Petersen is the Library Director of Congregation Har Shalom, a small non-denominational synagogue in Fort Collins, CO, where she has been a member and either a library volunteer or the Director for the past 30 years. The library has received Basic Accreditation, and Judy is very grateful for the mentorship and education she received through AJL that made this possible. In her non-library life, Judy is a retired physical therapist and a retired Middle School music paraprofessional. She enjoys reading (of course!), crocheting and genealogy. Wearing other hats in her congregation, Judy teaches Israeli folk dancing to the Religious School students and for community holiday celebrations, and also does a genealogy research project with the 5th grade class. In the genealogy sphere, she is currently the VP of Programming for the Jewish Genealogy Society of Colorado.

Nick Posegay is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the Cambridge Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. He researches interfaith exchange in the intellectual history of medieval Middle Eastern languages. He also studies the history of paper and early modern printing in Cairo Genizah collections and worked as a cataloguer for the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit (contact: nrp40@cam.ac.uk, Twitter: @NPosegay).

Nathan Putnam is the Director of Data Quality and Governance at OCLC and leads a team of data analysts focused on quality, policies and standards for WorldCat data assets. He has over 20 years of cataloging and metadata experience, having worked in multiple U.S. academic libraries as a cataloger and manager prior to coming to OCLC. He spends his free time with his family, which includes four cats and streaming early 2000s TV programs.

Heidi Rabinowitz is the Library Director at Feldman Children's Library of Congregation B'nai Israel in Boca Raton, FL, past president of AJL and currently serves as AJL's Member Relations chair. She engages in numerous projects that promote Jewish children's literature, hosting The Book of Life: A Podcast about Jewish Kidlit (Mostly) at bookoflifepodcast.com, founding the popular Jewish Kidlit Mavens group on Facebook and helping to run The Sydney Taylor Shmooze, a mock award blog at sydneytaylorshmooze.com. Heidi is a past chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award committee and has served on the book selection committee for PJ Library.

Arlene Ratzabi has been the librarian of the Hendel Family Library of Westchester Jewish Center for the past fifteen 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/research 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. Since resuming her library career as a synagogue librarian, Arlene has been a member of AJL and for the past five years has been serving on the Accreditation Committee.

**Hannah Reynolds** grew up outside of Boston, where she spent most of her childhood and teenage years recommending books to friends, working at a bookstore and making chocolate desserts. She received her BA in creative writing and archaeology from Ithaca College, which meant she never needed to stop telling romantic stories or playing in the dirt. After living in San Francisco, New York, and Paris, she came back to Massachusetts and now lives in Cambridge. Find her online at www.Hannahreynolds.net.

**Aviva Rosenberg** is the Youth Services Librarian at the Ridgefield Free Public Library in Ridgefield, NJ. She previously served as school media specialist at The Moriah School in Englewood, NJ and Talmudical Academy in Baltimore, MD. Aviva has been on the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee since 2021 and will be committee chair for 2024-2025. She is also the current Vice President of the Schools, Synagogues, Centers and Public Libraries division of AJL. Aviva lives in Passaic, NJ with her husband and 4 children, where she spends her non-reading time baking and providing reader's advisory to strangers on the Internet.

**Lili Rosenstreich** is the founder, publisher and creative director at Kalaniot Books. Prior to founding Kalaniot Books, she was the design director of children's books at Farrar, Straus and Giroux and has designed and art directed books for HarperCollins, Macmillan, Henry Holt, Charlesbridge and Holiday House. She has had the honor of collaborating with such talented illustrators as Eric Rohmann, Peter Sis, David Small, Jon Agee and Ed Young. Lili feels fortunate to be able to bring this trade publishing craft to Kalaniot Books.

**Rena Rossner** is a literary agent at The Deborah Harris Agency, based in Jerusalem, Israel. She was born in Miami Beach, FL, is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University’s Writing Seminars Program, studied at Trinity College, Dublin and holds an MA in history from McGill University. She is the author of the cookbook *Eating the Bible* (Skyhorse, 2014) and the novels, *The Sisters of the Winter Wood* (Redhook/Orbit, 2018) and *The Light of the Midnight Stars* (Redhook/Orbit, 2021). Rena represents a wide range of award-winning literary and commercial fiction and non-fiction, in both the children's and adult publishing space. The authors she works with have been *New York Times* bestsellers, National Book Award Finalists, Sydney Taylor Award Winners, Morris Award, Edgar Award and Corretta Scott King Award winners, and more.

**Hervé Roten** has been Director of the European Institute of Jewish Music since its creation in 2006. He holds a PhD in musicology from the University Paris Sorbonne. Hervé won the Prize of the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, and he was awarded Officier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture. As a musicologist, Hervé has been interested in saving and digitising archives very early on. He has been teaching this subject for several years at the universities of Reims and Marne-La-Vallée. Author of numerous articles, books and records on Jewish music, producer of radio programs, he is today recognized as one of the best specialists in Jewish music in the world.

**Anjelica N. Ruiz** is the Director of Libraries and Archives at Temple Emanu-El. She holds a BA in criminology from St. Edward’s University, an MS in criminal justice from Texas State University and an MS in library and information sciences from the University of North Texas. She began Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion’s Executive Master’s in Jewish Education program this spring. She is an alum of the Union for Reform Judaism’s JewV’Nation Fellowship in the Jews of Color cohort and Bend the Arc's Selah Leadership Program in cohort 16. Most recently, Anjelica was chosen to be a part of Jewtina's PUENTES Fellowship. She is active with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and sits on the Commission for Social Action.

**Leila Sales** is the author of eight critically acclaimed middle-grade and young adult novels, including, most recently, *The Museum of Lost and Found* (Abrams 2023). Her books have been optioned for screen and stage, appeared on many state lists and been translated into a dozen languages. Leila worked for many years at Viking Children’s Books, where she edited bestselling and award-winning books for readers of all ages. She now lives in Austin, TX and runs the Book Engineer, a book development consulting firm. Learn more at leilasales.com.
A. J. Sass (he/they) is an author whose narrative interests lie at the intersection of identity, neurodiversity and allyship. He is the author of the ALA Rainbow Book List Top 10 titles Ellen Outside the Lines, which was also a Sydney Taylor Honor Book, and Ana on the Edge, as well as the co-author of Camp Quiltbag. When he’s not writing, A. J. figure skates and travels as much as possible. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his husband and two cats who act like dogs. Visit him online at sassinsf.com.

Esther Schnaidman has been the school librarian/teacher at the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey in River Edge, NJ since 2000, where she teaches information literacy skills and shares her love of books with her students. She received her MLS from Rutgers School of Communication and Information. Besides being active in AJL, she also serves on the board at the New Jersey Association of School Libraries as the Liaison to the Non-public schools. She lives in Teaneck, NJ with her family.

Peninnah Schram, storyteller, educator and author, is Professor Emerita at Yeshiva University. She is the author of 14 books of Jewish folktales, including Jewish Stories One Generation Tells Another; Stories Within Stories from the Jewish Oral Tradition, and Jewish Stories of Love and Marriage: Folktales, Legends & Letters. Her biography, Peninnah’s World: A Jewish Life in Stories, authored by Caren Schnur Neile, published by Hamilton Books, was published in November 2021. On November 9, 2022, Peninnah was featured on AJL Presents (Zoom). Her one-hour workshop topic was “What's in a Name?” In the 2nd part, Peninnah and her biographer were interviewed by Sean Boyles about her biography.

Laura Schutzman has been the librarian at the Hebrew Academy of Nassau County in Uniondale, NY for the past eleven years. She has been a member of the AJL Council as the Publications chair since 2016. She also writes for, and is an editor of, the AJL News and 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 since 2019 and previously served as committee chair.

Amanda (Miryem-Khaye) Seigel is an Instruction and Outreach Librarian in the Dorot Jewish Division, New York Public Library.

Ellen Share has worked as a librarian for over 30 years at Washington Hebrew Congregation. She holds an MLS from the University of Maryland. Ellen has been active in AJL, holding several positions and presently writing book reviews for the AJL Newsletter. She is also on the Board of the Capital Area of the Association of Jewish Libraries. Ellen is passionate about using Jewish books and literature to convey Jewish history and beliefs to children.

Courtney Sheinmel is the author of nearly thirty books for kids and teens, including the acclaimed Stella Batts and My Pet Slime series for young readers. Her book, Helen Keller, was part of Chelsea Clinton's She Persisted series. Courtney received a National Scholastic Outstanding Educator Award for her work as a writing instructor at the non-profit Writopia Lab. You can visit her online at: courtneysheinmel.com Instagram: @courtneysheinmel

Jasmin Shinohara has been the Hebraica Cataloging Librarian at the University of Pennsylvania since 2011. Prior to working at Penn, Jasmin served as the Judaica & Hebraica Cataloger at the University of Maryland. She earned her MLS at Indiana University and her BA in Judaic studies at Yeshiva University. A member of AJL since beginning her career, Jasmin has served as chair and member of the AJL RAS Cataloging Committee and as a member of the 2022 conference planning committee. Jasmin is the current funnel coordinator for the PCC Hebraica and Judaica funnels.

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. Gail enjoys arranging lectures and programs of Jewish/Israeli content with various organizations. She is on the advisory board of Classroom without Borders and a member of the AJL Conference committee.
Dr. Lyudmila Sholokhova is Curator of the Dorot Jewish Collection at The New York Public Library. She had previously held positions of the Director of the Library and Associate Director for External Relations in Eastern Europe and Russia at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Prior to her coming to the United States in 2001, she was a research associate and librarian at the Judaica Department and Music Division of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine.

Christopher Silver is the Segal Family Assistant Professor in Jewish History and Culture in the Department of Jewish Studies at McGill University. He earned his PhD in history from UCLA. Recipient of grants from the Posen Foundation, the American Academy of Jewish Research, the American Institute for Maghrib Studies, and the Association for Recorded Sound Collections, Silver is the author of numerous articles on North African history and music, including in the International Journal of Middle East Studies, Jewish Social Studies, and Hespéris-Tamuda. He is also the founder and curator of the website Gharamophone.com, a digital archive of North African records from the first half of the twentieth century. His first book, Recording History: Jews, Muslims, and Music Across Twentieth Century North Africa was published in June 2022 by Stanford University Press.


Dr. Malka Z. Simkovich is the Crown-Ryan Chair of Jewish Studies and the director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies program at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. She is the author of The Making of Jewish Universalism: From Exile to Alexandria (2016) and Discovering Second Temple Literature: The Scriptures and Stories That Shaped Early Judaism (2018), which received the 2019 AJL Judaica Reference Honor Award. Simkovich’s articles have been published in academic journals such as the Harvard Theological Review and the Journal for the Study of Judaism, and in mainstream publications such as The Jewish Review of Books and The Christian Century. She is involved in numerous interreligious dialogue projects which help to increase understanding between Christians and Jews.

Martha Seif Simpson was the chair of the 2022 and 2023 Sydney Taylor Book Award Committees. She is retired from the Stratford Library in Stratford, CT where she worked for 28 years as Head of Children’s Services. Martha is the author of several library resource books, including Bringing Classes into the Public Library, published by McFarland. She has also written three picture books, including The Dreidel That Wouldn’t Spin and Esther’s Gragger, published by Wisdom Tales. Her next picture book, A Ring for a King will also be published by Wisdom Tales. Visit her at www.Martha-Seif-Simpson.com.

Ariel Sion is the head of the library at the Memorial de la Shoah since 2005. She manages the library budget, as well as people who report to her. Her responsibilities include the catalogue (so, for example, she organized the conversion of the paper catalogue to a computerized catalogue), acquisitions, aspects of the reading room, answering diverse public queries – family research, general questions and academic projects. She provides translations of manuscripts and printed documents, handles the concerns of document preservation and matters pertaining to cultural activities of the museum (exhibitions, conferences, cultural programs…). Ariel has a pre-doctoral degree in modern history (DEA). [Original research and monograph on the "Education of Jewish Girls in Lodz, Poland between the Two World Wars"] She has a master’s in modern history. [Research and monograph on "The Jewish Workers in Lodz, 1860-1914"], and a BA in history (University: Paris IV Sorbonne). She has been a visiting Graduate at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (Literature, History, Yiddish, Jewish Education). She has credits in Hebrew and informal Jewish education through Yiddish Seminars on a wide range of Jewish cultural, literary and historical topics. She has worked in other libraries including the Bibliotheque Nationale de France, has been a journalist, researcher for various cultural activities (for example for the Jewish broadcast on French national TV), and a radio show host for broadcasts dedicated to Jewish culture. She devoted a large part of her career to the knowledge and spreading of the culture, history and heritage of the Jewish people.
**Talya Sokoll** (They/Them) is a middle and high school librarian, history teacher and the gender and sexuality specialist at the Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, MA. Talya has been on a number of committees prior to their wonderful experience this year on the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee. Talya is an RK, raised at the Greater Boston JCC and Jewish summer camp and taught Hebrew School at Prozdor for many years. Talya has written various articles on the representations of transgender youth in young adult literature. Talya holds a BS and an MA from NYU in English education and an MLS from Simmons College.

**Hannah Sroun-Zackon** is the archivist and museum director at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Montreal, Quebec. She also is the book columnist for the *Canadian Jewish News*. Hannah received her bachelor’s degree in Jewish studies and English literature at McGill University in 2019, and her Master of Information (with a focus in archives and book history) from the University of Toronto in 2021. She serves on several AJL committees including the executive board of AJL-Canada, the Jewish Fiction Award committee, the Education committee, and more. Hannah has a particular interest in Jewish archives in Canada and in bringing more people in contact with the rich histories of Canadian Jewry.

**Dr. Felix Steilen** received his DPhil from Humboldt-Universität in 2019 on *The Representation of Historical Reality in Theories of Society*. He was a visiting graduate student in the New School for Social Research, NYC (2008–2009); in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago (2014–2015), as well as a Minerva Fellow at Tel Aviv University (2016–2019) and a Postdoc at Goethe University Frankfurt (2019–2020). Dr. Steilen received the Marie Curie Fellowship for “The Theorem of Secularization in the Long 19th Century” at the Freie Universität Berlin (2020–2022) and was a guest researcher at Freie Universität Berlin (2022–2023). He was a lecturer for European history at the University of Notre Dame in Berlin (2022) and has been a lecturer for the German Intellectual Tradition at New York University, Berlin since 2020.

**Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz** z”l was an educator, scholar, social critic and commentator on Talmud and Hasidism, philosopher and a prolific author of more than three hundred and twenty titled books published in ten languages. In 1965, Rabbi Steinsaltz founded the Israel Institute for Talmudic Publications in cooperation with the Israeli Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry of Education and Culture. Its goal is to promote the Rabbi’s mission of “Let My People Know” – making a world of Jewish knowledge accessible to all.

**Chana Stiefel** is the award-winning author of more than 30 books for children. Her picture book, *The Tower of Life: How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs* (Scholastic), won the 2023 Sydney Taylor Book Award and a Robert F. Sibert Honor. It was listed as a Best Book of the Year by *School Library Journal, Booklist*, the New York Public Library, Chicago Public Library, *Tablet Magazine* and others. Chana’s other nonfiction titles include *Let Liberty Rise: How America’s Schoolchildren Helped Save the Statue of Liberty* and the upcoming *Let’s Fly* (Dial, 2024) co-written with Barrington Irving, who broke the record as the youngest person and first Black man to fly solo around the world. Learn more at chanastiefel.com.

**Daniel D. “Donnie” Stuhlman** has been cataloging books longer than he has been a librarian. He is a semi-retired academic librarian who is the part-time librarian for Temple Sholom of Chicago and does contract cataloging for Hebraica and Yiddica. He earned his MS LS from Columbia University in the City of New York and earned bachelor’s, master’s and Doctorate in Hebrew literature.

**Joni Sussman** is the Publisher at Kar-Ben Publishing, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group in Minneapolis. Celebrating its 49th anniversary this year, Kar-Ben publishes Jewish-themed picture books for children, both fiction and non-fiction for preschool through 6th grade, including Jewish holiday books, lifecycle stories, Bible tales, folktales, picture book biographies, stories about American and world Jewish history, Israel, the Holocaust and other Jewish topics. In particular, Kar-Ben seeks stories that reflect the rich cultural diversity of today’s Jewish family.

**Jeremiah Aaron Taub** is the Head of the Israel and Judaica Section in the Asian and Middle Eastern Division of the Library of Congress and the President of AJL’s Research, Archives and Special Libraries.
(RAS) Division. He has served as the President of the Capital Area Chapter of AJL (AJL/CAC) and the Chairperson of AJL's RAS Cataloging Committee, the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award Committee, and AJL Jewish Fiction Award Committee. Under the name Yermiyahu Ahron Taub, he is the author of two books of fiction and six books of poetry and the translator or co-translator of three volumes from the Yiddish, including, most recently, *Dineh: an Autobiographical Novel* by Ida Maze (White Goat Press, 2022). 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. Galina 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.

**Livia Thompson**, JBI President since early 2022, has a 40-year history working in the Jewish community, including the Anti-Defamation League; 24 years as the Executive Director of Central Synagogue in Manhattan; and many years as a lay leader and consultant to Jewish organizations. Livia was the interim Chief of Staff at HUC-JIR before joining JBI, after the unexpected death of JBI’s long-term president, Dr. Ellen Isler. Brooklyn-based and a devoted reader, being a librarian is the path not taken. Instead, Livia became an attorney, and spent most of her career working to support Jewish communities large and small. She is thrilled to be part of JBI’s renewal as it makes sure that everyone can access Jewish materials.

**Madelyn Travis** is chair of the Content Advisory committee for PJ Library in the UK and a member of the PJ Our Way Book Selection Committee. She has a PhD in literature and is the author of *Jews and Jewishness in British Children’s Literature* (Routledge, 2013). Madelyn has written for the *Horn Book Magazine*, the *Jewish Chronicle*, *Jewish Quarterly*, *Books for Keeps*, and the Ultimate Book Guides series. She was editor of the children’s books website for the British charity Booktrust, where she interviewed dozens of authors and illustrators, was on the steering group for a national picture books campaign and led a national research project into school library provision. Originally from New York, Madelyn lives in London with her husband and son.

**Olga Ungar** graduated from the Academy of Arts of Novi Sad, Serbia, and continued to pursue higher education at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, where she earned the MFA degree. She completed the PhD degree in 2017, at the Program in Contemporary Jewry, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, with a dissertation concentrating on Hungarian Jewish sculptor Michael Kara (1885-1964) as a doorway to the historical analysis of Hungarian-speaking East-Central European Jewish communities. Her current research examines different aspects of the Vojvodina Jewish cultural heritage. Olga is currently employed as a content developer and educator at the E-Learning Department at Yad Vashem’s International School for Holocaust Studies.

**Arielle Vishny** is a freelance writer based in New York City. Her work has previously appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Teen Vogue*, and *Hey Alma*. She has a JD from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, and a BA in English from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She has been on the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee since 2022.

**Tamara Butigan Vučaj**, with her background in electrical engineering, started working as a subject librarian in the National Library of Serbia, which opened a whole new galaxy of interests. For more than 25 years in the National Library, she worked also as webmaster, head of digital library, European projects coordinator and assistant, head of international cooperation, deputy director, and eight years ago, she took over again heading the digital library. Seeking new challenges brought her to the Europeana, where she served as Councillor from 2019 to 2021 and DARIAH, where she served as national representative of Serbia. She is fully dedicated to digital transformation in the cultural sector.
Vicki Weber is co-owner of Behrman House, an independent, third-generation family-owned publishing company now in its 103rd year, publishing non-fiction books for adults, educational materials for Jewish settings and a variety of children’s books and YA nonfiction with a backlist of over 1,000 titles. Its growing Apples & Honey Press imprint publishes stories for babies through kids aged 12 and up formatted as picture books, board books, early and middle-grade chapter books and graphic novels. Although many Apples & Honey Press stories are overtly Jewish, many others are stories that are located within Jewish families, settings or holidays, but whose universal themes speak to children (and parents) from any background.

Bella Hass Weinberg is the founding Editor of Judaica Librarianship, to which she contributed many articles and reviews. She served for many years as Associate Librarian at YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, where she also taught courses on Hebraica and Judaica Cataloging. Dr. Weinberg chaired the development of the Hebraic character set for the Research Libraries Information Network, which is now used in OCLC and Unicode. Professor Emerita of the Division of Library and Information Science at St. John’s University, her current research focuses on the history of Hebrew indexes and concordances. She also does translation of Hebrew and Yiddish texts.

Stacey Weinberg is the Judaic Curriculum Specialist at The Jewish Library of Baltimore. She holds a bachelor's degree in Near Eastern and Judaic studies from Brandeis University and a master's degree in School Library Media from the University of Maryland College Park. Stacey has worked in public, private, and school libraries for over twenty years and is excited to be at JLB combining her passions for both Judaism and librarianship. Her interests include playing the clarinet, reading and traveling. She lives in Maryland with her husband, three teenagers and far too many pets.

Kay Weisman is a retired school (Willowbrook Elementary, Glenview, IL), public (West Vancouver Memorial Library, BC, Canada), and temple librarian (Am Shalom, Glencoe, IL) who currently reviews for Booklist and Canadian Materials. She also writes for NoveList and published If You Want to Visit a Sea Garden in 2020.

Cynthia Whitacre is the Manager of Metadata Policy within OCLC’s Membership and Research Division. Her team concentrates on engagement with metadata organizations such as the PCC (the Program for Cooperative Cataloging) and works closely with Nathan’s teams on setting OCLC metadata policies. Cynthia has over 40 years in the cataloging field, 36 of those at OCLC, with active involvement in ALA and other library organizations. She spends her free time attending numerous symphony and chamber music concerts as well as organizing a book club.

Margita Mirčeta Zakarija holds a master’s degree in comparative literature, Italian language and library studies. Employed at the University of Split Library since 2006, Margita builds experience in cataloguing, information literacy instruction and small team management. She is particularly engaged in curating library cultural heritage and interlibrary partnership projects. She participates in cultural heritage preservation projects for the local Jewish community.

Saul Zaritt is Associate Professor of Yiddish Literature at Harvard University. His book, Jewish American Writing and World Literature: Maybe to Millions, Maybe to Nobody appeared in 2020. He is a founding editor of In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies. He is currently at work on a book about Yiddish and the politics of translation.

Karin Zingerevitz is Latin America’s PJ Library regional director. In 2020, mid-pandemic, she launched the program in Brazil and has held her current position since 2021. For five years she was the World Union for Reform Judaism’s director in Latin America where she coordinated the translation of the Chumash Plaut into Portuguese. After receiving her master’s degrees in public administration from USC and non-profit Jewish management from HUC-JIR, she worked with the continuing education program for rabbis at Hebrew College in Boston. She is a proud participant of the Tzofim in Brazil, several tnuot, and is a soferet and ketubah designer. Most importantly, she is the mother of two amazing and challenging teens and lives in São Paulo, Brazil.
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