For Immediate Release
June 29, 2023

For more information, please contact:
Paula Breger
Chair, Public Relations/Communications
Association of Jewish Libraries
pr@jewishlibraries.org
www.jewishlibraries.org

Association of Jewish Libraries Digital Conference 2023: A World of Possibilities Inspires Jewish Librarians


These are just a few of the words used by Jewish librarians to describe the recent Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) digital conference held online June 19–22. More than 200 participants—librarians, archivists, authors, illustrators, educators, scholars, volunteers, and guests—gathered virtually to exchange ideas, learn, and network. The conference featured more than forty sessions by over one hundred thirty presenters.

“What a whirlwind week it's been! said AJL president Michelle Margolis. “I learned so much at the informative sessions, thought-provoking conversations, and really interesting programming. Looking forward to next year in San Diego!”

Popular sessions included discussions by the winners and honorees of the Sydney Taylor Book Awards and the AJL Jewish Fiction Award; Highlighting Collections Around the World; Practical Suggestions for Addressing Provenance in Judaica Collections; the keynote address, “Etched in Time and Grooves: The Sounds of North African Jewish History,” by Dr. Christopher Silver of McGill University; the 2023 Feinstein Lecture by Dr. Malka Simkovich of the Catholic Theological Union, “Books, Letter-Writing, and the Written Word in Early Judaism”; and our closing program, a celebration of forty years of Judaica Librarianship, the Association of Jewish Libraries’ peer-reviewed journal.

“An incredible team worked exceptionally hard to pull together an extraordinary conference! It has been a week of learning, sharing, and networking on so many levels,” said Kathy Bloomfield, AJL past president and conference co-chair. “I can't wait for our 2024 conference in person in San Diego.”
“As always, hearing from the Sydney Taylor Book Award–winning authors and the winners of the AJL Fiction Award was both enlightening and inspiring, and all of the book lists and handouts from the sessions will certainly help me build my library collection. Plus it was so nice to connect with colleagues!” added Rachel Kamin, conference co-chair and director of lifelong learning at North Suburban Synagogue Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, Illinois.

About the Association of Jewish Libraries

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

###