AJL NEWCOMERS WELCOME SESSION 2023 - HANDOUT

ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE

2023 AJL Conference Guidelines for Attendees:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/10WaiH7mPK29gz09lqvE2-UYs66R3h-9zQc32PrDOPCU/edit?usp=drive_link

You can find the conference schedule in WebEx or on AJL’s website at
https://jewishlibraries.org/2023-digital-conference/

● Please consider participating in our Zoom Background Challenge! We will be watching for the best backgrounds, both real and virtual, displayed during the General Membership Meeting, Monday June 19 at 3:45-5pm ET. Winners will be announced at Thursday’s final session “Judaica Librarianship at 40,” 5-6:30pm ET, June 22, 2023.
● If you post on social media about the conference, please use the hashtag #AJLCon23.
● At the end of each session, please take a moment to rate it on the WebEx app. Your input is valuable to the conference planners.

ABOUT AJL

The Association of Jewish Libraries is a volunteer-run nonprofit professional organization that promotes Jewish literacy and libraries. We are the leading authority on Judaic librarianship.

AJL is an international organization, and the members from around the world represent all kinds of libraries, in synagogues, schools, community centers, universities, museums, archives, and even Judaic interests within non-Jewish libraries like the Library of Congress or public libraries.

AJL is an affiliate of the American Library Association, the American Theological Library Association, the Association for Jewish Studies, and the American Institute for Conservation.
HISTORY & ORGANIZATION

AJL has 2 divisions:

- RAS (Research Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections)
- SSCPL (Synagogues, Schools, Centers, and Public Libraries)

You can belong to one or both divisions, and can attend conference sessions from either division. The divisions are just an easy way for people with like interests to find each other.

The reason we have 2 divisions is that we actually started as 2 organizations. In 1966 two other Jewish library organizations merged:

- the Jewish Librarians Association (founded in 1946 and composed of academic, archival or research institutions)
- and the Jewish Library Association (founded in 1962 for synagogue, school and community center libraries, as well as other smaller libraries and media centers.)

AJL also has local Chapters so members can get together and share ideas. Chapters are independent and are organized by local members to serve local needs, rather than follow rules laid down by the larger organization. Currently there are chapters in Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, New England, the New York Metro Area as well as Long Island, Southern California, the Washington DC area, and Canada. You can find contact info for the representatives of these chapters on the AJL website. (About AJL>Organizational Structure>Chapters).

https://jewishlibraries.org/chapters/

A silver lining of the pandemic is that we all learned how to use Zoom. This has been a big benefit to AJL, because we now have Zoom events every month for members and for the general public. The member events are called Roundtables and the public events series is called AJL Presents. You can find upcoming events at https://jewishlibraries.org/events-calendar/, and past AJL Presents at https://jewishlibraries.org/ajl-presents/. To see recordings of past AJL Roundtables you need to log into the member section of the website and then look under Members Only>AJL Resources>Roundtables. By the way, we always need people to moderate or present at these events, so keep that in mind as a way you can get involved in AJL.

Speaking of virtual events, on a Sunday in October we’ll have our annual Membership Gala on Zoom, special guests TBA. Last year we had Chef Michael Twitty as our speaker; the year before that it was the Safran Foer family of literary giants.
YEAR ROUND WAYS TO BE INVOLVED WITH AJL

COMMITTEES
https://jewishlibraries.org/committees/

- The Accreditation Committee is looking for more members. Contact: Shaindy Kurzmann: sbkAJL18@gmail.com.
- Webmaster Sheryl Stahl would like to have a Webmaster Apprentice. Contact mavenqlw@gmail.com
- The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Committee has openings. Contact Aileen Grossberg STMACAJL@aol.com
- The AJL News & Reviews can always use more book reviewers for adult and children’s books. Contact Daniel Scheide dascheide@gmail.com for adult, Rebecca Levitan ralevitan@gmail.com for kids reviews.
- We can also use reviewers for children’s books at The Sydney Taylor Shmooze mock award blog, contact Heidi Rabinowitz sydneytaylorshmooze@gmail.com
- We are always looking for people to moderate or present at our virtual events on Zoom, contact Heidi Rabinowitz bookoflifepodcast@gmail.com
- We are seeking an Instagram maven to take on AJL’s IG account, contact Rebecca Levitan ralevitan@gmail.com
- We need an assistant Ad Manager. Contact Jackie Ben Efraim ajladmanager@gmail.com
- The 2024 AJL Conference will be in San Diego, June 23-26 and we are looking for new members to add to the Conference Planning Committee. While we would love some local volunteers, you do not need to live in California to be on the committee. Contact Rachel Kamin rachelkamin@gmail.com and Kathy Bloomfield kathybloomfield@gmail.com

OTHER WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

- Hasafran listserv https://jewishlibraries.org/hasafran-listserv/
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter) https://www.facebook.com/jewishlibraries https://twitter.com/jewishlibraries
- Jewish Book Carnival - read it, submit to it or host if you’re a blogger, and keep an eye on AJL’s blog https://jewishlibraries.org/jewish_book_carnival_hq/
- AJL News & Reviews quarterly newsletter - read and/or review books and write articles https://jewishlibraries.org/ajl-news-and-reviews/
- Judaica Librarianship - read and write articles https://ajlpublishing.org/index.php/il
• Accreditation (Basic and Advanced) for your library
  https://jewishlibraries.org/accreditation/

• Use and contribute to Bibliography Bank https://jewishlibraries.org/bibliography-bank/

• Check out Publications section on website - there are a few print pubs you can order and many digital pubs you can view right away (including the AJL Advocacy Kit)
  https://jewishlibraries.org/publications/

• If you are into kidlit, you can join the Jewish Kidlit Mavens Facebook group run by Heidi Rabinowitz and Susan Kusel. It’s not officially an AJL project, but it de facto is. It’s under the umbrella of The Book of Life Podcast.
  https://www.facebook.com/groups/JewishKidlitMavens/ | www.bookoflifepodcast.com

• Also for kidlit fans, you can read or become a reviewer for The Sydney Taylor Shmooze, a mock award blog https://www.sydneytaylorshmooze.com/

• Listen to The Book of Life: A Podcast About Jewish Kidlit (Mostly)
  www.bookoflifepodcast.com

• Listen to Nice Jewish Books, AJL’s podcast about adult Jewish fiction
  https://nicejewishbooks.libsyn.com/

QUESTIONS?

About this session: ask AJL Member Relations Chair Heidi Rabinowitz,
bookoflifepodcast@gmail.com

About your membership: ask AJL Membership VP Sharon Benamou, benamou@library.ucla.edu

About logging into the website: ask AJL Webmaster Sheryl Stahl, mavenqlw@gmail.com

The Association of Jewish Libraries
The Leading Authority on Judaic Librarianship
www.JewishLibraries.org