BOOK CLUB FACILITATORS ROUNDTABLE

Rachel Kamin, Arielle Landau and Arlene Ratzabi

Description: 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.

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.

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.

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.