

Member Spotlight with Žilvinas Beliauskas

SUBMITTED BY DAVID FRANKEL



Žilvinas Beliauskas heads the [Vilnius Jewish Public Library](#), Vilnius, Lithuania. He graduated from the Psychology Department at Vilnius University in 1982. While working as a psychology lecturer, he grew an interest in the Vilnius Jewish Public Library project. The idea came from an American from San Diego, who already had his collection of books shipped to Lithuania and was looking for ways to realize his dream. For several years, he had been trying to establish a library in Vilnius, but none of his attempts with the local Jewish community and state-operated museums were successful. Žilvinas found the idea attractive, though he was neither a librarian

nor a Jew. Nevertheless, he started coordinating the project, contacting the government, Ministry of Culture, libraries, and other institutions. He described the process as an adventure. He realized how important the project was for his generation, which grew up in complete ignorance of Jewish history. His goal would be to show Jewish heritage to the whole of Lithuanian society.

Being a psychologist, Žilvinas saw a great value in presenting a heritage that was exterminated and lost due to the Holocaust. He notes: “culturally, now we have an opportunity to get in touch with the bottomless heritage of wisdom, art, literature, science, and other spheres of life within the Judaica dimension.”

There were many interesting and lucky coincidences during the process of the coordination and attempts to establish the library. Žilvinas even says that it would not have been possible without “guidance from the Heavens.” He and his colleagues received permission from the Lithuanian government to open a library in a good location in town, but in a run-down building. They would need funds for renovation and equipment. Early in their process, prosecutors began to enforce a ban on various reconstruction projects due to suspicions around financial interactions, which froze spending within the Cultural Ministry. Žilvinas’s project was in danger of losing funding during that time. Support was finally granted after a long battle.

AJL Online



Visit the AJL Web site at <http://www.jewishlibraries.org>.

To subscribe to Hasafran, please see instructions at
<https://lists.service.ohio-state.edu/mailman/listinfo/hasafran>

AJL is now on [Facebook](#). Become a fan.



Zilvinas stands with graduates from the library's Yiddish Language instruction program

Today Žilvinas and his colleagues run not only the Vilnius Jewish Public Library but also its [Charity and Support Foundation](#) and its inspired organization [Vilnius Jewish Theater](#). The latter is currently producing a musical play based on the motifs of the stories in Avrom Karpinovich's *The Vilne Tango*.

The library aspires to grow locally and to network internationally. Žilvinas has received support and book donations from Lynn Waghalter and Olga Potap. Books started coming, and Galina Teverovsky managed to set up a very useful book exchange program. Žilvinas writes: "I really appreciate all of that, and the library became possible

due to the existence of the AJL and its values. We look forward to cooperating with AJL in future as long as possible. There was an exchange of ideas and—for me personally—a lot of knowledge and experience in the field since, as noticed above, library science is not my profession."

Going forward, Žilvinas will continue to maintain a relationship with AJL and to keep his finger on the pulse of Judaica librarianship. He aims to maintain the library as a vibrant cultural center, and to promote it locally and internationally in order to enhance its potential influence. Žilvinas has also expressed an interest in having an international event for Judaica librarianship in Vilnius.

[Visit the Vilnius Jewish Public Library Website here!](#)

Windows Open: A Celebration of Rick Black's *The Amichai Windows*

SUBMITTED BY YERMIYAHU AHRON TAUB

On Sunday, February 18, 2018, a book launch was held at the Pyramid Atlantic Art Center in Hyattsville, Maryland for *The Amichai Windows*, an artist book by artist and poet Rick Black that features poems by the late Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai (b. Ludwig Pfeuffer; 1924-2000). The event included a panel discussion featuring the artist and Judith K. Brodsky and Helen Frederick, both nationally known artists, exhibition curators, and arts advocates. Accompanied by an introduction by Robert Alter and an in-depth guide by Black, *The Amichai Windows* is a towering achievement in American arts and letters, the culmination of a decade of reflection, research, translation, and artistic imagining and a breathtaking exploration of literary and visual poetics.

Black began the project in 2007, some seven years after Amichai's death, although he'd been engaging with the poet's work since the early 1980's when he lived in Israel. Black recounted his initial meeting with Amichai in the mid 1990's. He went to pick up Amichai at 30th Street Station in Philadelphia, where Black was then working at the Israeli Consulate. When Black saw Amichai trudging up the stairs from the train platform lugging a very large suitcase, he offered to help him. Amichai responded with "Everyone has to carry their own baggage." In a kind of collaboration, Black kept Amichai in mind throughout the research, design and assembly of the poems, building his own metaphors out of Amichai's poems. Throughout the process, Black had the support of Hana Amichai, the poet's widow.

The book includes poems by Amichai in both the Hebrew original and in English translation by Rick Black. The artist consulted with Professors Gary A. Rendsburg and Azzan Yadin-Israel, both of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., where Black was living at the time. During the panel discussion at Pyramid Atlantic, Black described how he would bring a translation to Rendsburg and Yadin-Israel and the three of them would hammer out the issues. Rendsburg tended to want to stick closer to the original text, while Yadin-Israel's approach was more free and wide-ranging. Black said

that having both of those approaches in mind helped him when he was working out the translations that appear in the book.

The number eighteen is central to *The Amichai Windows*. The numerological value of the Hebrew word “hai” (חי) is eighteen, and the word means “life.” There are eighteen poems in the book. And, of course, the poet’s last name ends in “hai.” Black inserted the word “hai” in all of the pages of the artist book. Additionally, Black has created a limited edition numbering eighteen copies. Initially, Black wanted to focus the project on themes of family, as Amichai has written numerous poems about parents and children. However, Hana Amichai dissuaded him from doing so. In delving ever deeper into Amichai’s work, Black came to realize that the theme of windows is prominent throughout Amichai’s oeuvre, enabling the poet to reflect on looking out and looking and connecting with figures past and present.

Based on years of archival and library research, *The Amichai Windows* includes multi-layered collages of images from archives from around the world. The images emanate chiefly from the collections of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS), Library of Congress, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, National Photo Collection of Israel, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. According to Black, the librarian at JTS allowed him full use of images from the JTS archival collections. These included historical *ketubot* and a Hebrew calligraphic manual from Italy. Black often visited the African and Middle Eastern Division reading room of the Library of Congress, where he researched, read, and translated articles by and interviews of Amichai. Black also did research at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, where Amichai’s papers are housed.

Each page is replete with images and layers of meaning. The images in the collages are thoroughly explicated in the Guide that accompanies the artist book. For example, in the page of the opening poem, “*Halon Tamid/Eternal Window*,” the following caption is given for just one of the images: Estera Ajzen is photographed in the window of her home in Chelm, Poland, where she worked for a photography studio. After the German invasion of Poland, her family fled to the Soviet zone but was deported to a labor camp. In 1944, she married a Soviet Jewish soldier and they survived the war. The photograph is reproduced courtesy of Ester (born Estera) Ajzen Lewin and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Photo Archives, Washington, D.C. (*A Guide to the Amichai Windows*, p. 17).



Another photo in this collage shows a family of Jewish refugees from Germany who fled to Albania, where they were hidden by a Muslim family. In the collage for the poem “*ha-Yehudim/The Jews*,” Black juxtaposes “*Alter Jude aus Jaffa/Old Jew from Jaffa*,” an etching by Hermann Struck, a German-Jewish immigrant to Palestine in 1922 and one of the founders of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, with an image of a vandalized Jewish store in Berlin before Krystallnacht. This layering process allows the viewer to experience multiple conversations: between past and present, between the literary and visual arts, and between archival images and the written word.

Attendees of the book launch enjoyed viewing the individual pages on the walls of Pyramid Atlantic as in an exhibition. However, in a telephone interview with this author, Black noted that the suspense of having to open and turn the pages and seeing the images revealed little by little and slowly unfolding was necessarily absent from the exhibition format. Black shared that he has thought about presenting the collages in another format, such as enlarged posters for a traveling exhibition or public space. However, for the time being, he is



content for the artist book to remain the sole format for the art and to give talks about it.

During the panel discussion, Judith K. Brodsky commented that Black's work reminded her of the Talmud, in that it constructed layers upon layers of meaning. She also suggested that a video incorporating the images, poems, and Black's artistic process might bring Black's work to a wider audience. Helen Frederick thanked Black for opening the world of Yehuda Amichai to viewers and readers. This sentiment was widely shared by all in attendance and surely, by all who will encounter this extraordinary work.

The Association of Jewish Libraries Announces 2018 Winners of Jewish Fiction Award

SUBMITTED BY YERMIYAHU AHRON TAUB, ajljewishfictionaward@gmail.com

Rachel Kadish is the inaugural winner of the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) Jewish Fiction Award for her novel *The Weight of Ink*, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. The award includes a \$1,000 cash prize as well as support to attend the 53rd Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries in Boston, MA, June 18-20, 2018. Two honor books were also recognized: *Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan* by **Ruth Gilligan**, published by Tin House Books, and *A Boy in Winter* by **Rachel Seiffert**, published by Pantheon Books, part of the Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group. The Committee received over 50 works of fiction with significant Jewish thematic content, written in English and available in the United States in 2017, and thanks all those who submitted entries for consideration. The wide array of books published this year is a testament to the vibrant state of contemporary Jewish fiction.

"Rachel Kadish has crafted an extraordinary cast of characters who speak to each other within and across the divides of centuries as well as those of age, religion, and class and come vividly to life under her empathic touch," notes Yermiyahu Ahron Taub, Chairperson of the Award Committee. "This is a book that honors learning, libraries, archivists and librarians, and the Association of Jewish Libraries Jewish Fiction Award Committee is delighted to present Kadish with the 2018 AJL Jewish Fiction Award."

Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan gives serious depth to the little-known story of Jewish life in Ireland. Weaving a complex story, Ruth Gilligan uses the specifics of Irish lore and history woven with the Jewish experience to illuminate the stories of a young girl and her family who emigrate from eastern Europe, a suddenly mute boy incarcerated in a home for the mentally disabled, and a woman who considers the implications of converting to Judaism. According to Taub, "Gilligan's expert twists of plot, exploration of historical themes, and her gift of word play and dark humor" impressed the Committee.

Rachel Seiffert's *A Boy in Winter* works on a small canvas and creates a searing emotional impact. As the Nazis invade a small Ukrainian town, variety of characters are forced to face the invasion's terrible consequences and quickly make life-altering decisions. Taub comments: "Seiffert writes with spareness, a plain-hewn power that draws the reader on a journey of suspense in a time and place of limited possibility."

The Association of Jewish Libraries gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Dan Wyman Books for underwriting the Award. Submissions for the 2019 AJL Fiction Award are now being accepted. For more information, please visit www.jewishlibraries.org.

2018 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners Announced



The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Younger Readers

The Language of Angels: A Story About the Reinvention of Hebrew

by Richard Michelson, illustrated by Karla Gudeon, published by Charlesbridge

The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Older Readers

Refugee by Alan Gratz, published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic

The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner for Teen Readers

The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe, translated by Lilit Thwaites,
published by Godwin Books, an imprint of Henry Holt and Company,
a division of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

The Sydney Taylor Body of Work Award Winner

Harold Grinspoon and PJ Library

Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Younger Readers

Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam adapted by Fawzia Gilani-Williams, illustrated by Chiara Fedele
published by Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group

Drop by Drop: A Story of Rabbi Akiva by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Yevgenia Nayberg
published by Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group

Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Older Readers

Viva, Rose! by Susan Krawitz, published by Holiday House

This Is Just a Test by Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang,
published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic

The Six-Day Hero by Tammar Stein, published by Kar-Ben Publishing,
a division of Lerner Publishing Group

Sydney Taylor Honor Books for Teen Readers

To Look a Nazi in the Eye: A Teen's Account of a War Criminal Trial
by Kathy Kacer with Jordana Lebowitz, published by Second Story Press

Almost Autumn by Marianne Kaurin, translated by Rosie Hedger
published by Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic

The Girl with the Red Balloon by Katherine Locke, published by Albert Whitman & Company

Notable Books for Younger Readers

Yom Kippur Shortstop by David A. Adler, illustrated by Andre Ceolin
published by Apples & Honey Press, an imprint of Behrman House

Under the Sabbath Lamp by Michael Herman, illustrated by Alida Massari
published by Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group

Big Sam: A Rosh Hashanah Tall Tale by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Jim Starr
published by Apples & Honey Press, an imprint of Behrman House

The Knish War on Rivington Street by Joanne Oppenheim, illustrated by Jon Davis
published by Albert Whitman & Company

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The Case of R.B.G. vs. Inequality by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Stacy Innerst,
published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, a division of Abrams

Notable Books for Older Readers

Hedy's Journey: The True Story of a Hungarian Girl Fleeing the Holocaust
by Michelle Bisson, illustrated by El primo Ramón
published by Capstone Press, a Capstone imprint

***The Children of Willesden Lane: A True Story of Hope and Survival During World War II:
Young Readers Edition*** by Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen and adapted by Emil Sher
published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, a division of Hachette Book Group

Wordwings by Sydelle Pearl, published by Guernica Editions

The Dollmaker of Krakow by R.M. Romero
published by Delacorte Press, a division of Random House Children's Books

Notable Books for Teen Readers

Man's Search for Meaning: Young Reader Edition by Viktor E. Frankl, published by Beacon Press

Ronit & Jamil by Pamela L. Laskin
published by Katherine Tegen Books, a division of HarperCollins Publishers

Stolen Secrets by L.B. Schulman, published by Boyds Mills Press, a division of Highlights

For more information contact:

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Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee, Association of Jewish Libraries

sydneytaylorbookaward@jewishlibraries.org

<http://www.sydneytaylorbookawards.org>



2018 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners Announced

Winners of the annual Sydney Taylor Book Award were announced by the Association of Jewish Libraries today. Named in memory of Sydney Taylor, author of the classic *All-of-a-Kind Family* series, the award recognizes books for children and teens that exemplify high literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience.

2018 is the 50th Anniversary of the Sydney Taylor Awards. The first winner was *The Endless Steppe: Growing Up in Siberia* by Esther Hautzig in 1968, published by the Thomas Y. Crowell Company.

GOLD MEDALISTS

The Language of Angels: A Story About the Reinvention of Hebrew by Richard Michelson, illustrated by Karla Gudeon, published by Charlesbridge, won the Sydney Taylor Book Award in the Younger Readers category. This beautiful picture book tells the story of how Hebrew became an everyday language in Israel, after being out of use for two thousand years. The folk art illustrations are an illuminating match.

Refugee by Alan Gratz, published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic, won the Sydney Taylor Book Award in the Older Readers category. The journeys of three different young refugees from Nazi Germany, 1990s Cuba and present-day Syria come together to form an emotional and timely narrative about the refugee experience.

The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe, translated by Lilit Thwaites, published by Godwin Books, an imprint of Henry Holt and Company, a division of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, won the Sydney Taylor Book Award in the Teen Readers category. This powerful story of Dita Kraus and her protection of a handful of books in the Auschwitz concentration camp shows the importance of hope in the darkest of times.

Harold Grinspoon and PJ Library won the Sydney Taylor Body of Work Award. PJ Library, a project of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, is a family engagement program that sends free books celebrating Jewish values and culture to families with children 6 months through 8 years old. This program has revolutionized the field of Jewish children's literature by providing dramatically improved access to Jewish books for families. It has also significantly increased the publication of children's books with Jewish content. The Body of Work Award has been given twelve times in the 50-year history of the Sydney Taylor Awards. The last recipient was author Eric Kimmel in 2004.

SILVER MEDALISTS

Eight Sydney Taylor Honor Books were also recognized.

For Younger Readers, the Honor Books are: ***Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam*** adapted by Fawzia Gilani-Williams, illustrated by Chiara Fedele, published by Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group and ***Drop by Drop: A Story of Rabbi Akiva*** by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Yevgenia Nayberg, published by Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group.

For Older Readers, the Honor Books are: ***Viva, Rose!*** by Susan Krawitz, published by Holiday House, which was also the recipient of the 2015 Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award; ***This Is Just a Test*** by Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang, published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic; and ***The Six-Day Hero*** by Tammar Stein, published by Kar-Ben Publishing, a division of Lerner Publishing Group.

For Teen Readers, the Honor Books are: ***To Look a Nazi in the Eye: A Teen's Account of a War Criminal Trial*** by Kathy Kacer with Jordana Lebowitz, published by Second Story Press; ***Almost Autumn*** by Marianne Kaurin, translated by Rosie Hedger, published by Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic; and ***The Girl with the Red Balloon*** by Katherine Locke, published by Albert Whitman & Company.

In addition to the medal winners, the Award Committee designated twelve Notable Books of Jewish Content for 2018. More information about the Sydney Taylor Book Award and a complete listing of the award winners and notables can be found at www.sydneytaylorbookawards.org

Winning authors and illustrators will receive their awards at the Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries, to be held in Boston, MA from June 18-20, 2018. Gold and silver medalists will also participate in a blog tour February 4-8, 2018. For more information about the blog tour please visit www.jewishlibraries.org/blog.

The Language of Angels and *Refugee* were also named winners of the 67th Annual National Jewish Book Awards, which were announced today as well. A full list of all the winners can be found on the Jewish Book Council's website <https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/awards/national-jewish-book-award.html>

2018 Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Winner Announced

The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Competition committee is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2018 award. Judith Pransky, author of *The Seventh Handmaiden*, will receive the award at the annual conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries to be held in Boston, MA, from June 18-20, 2018. The Award is offered annually to an unpublished manuscript that has broad appeal to readers aged 8-13 and presents Jewish life in a positive light.

Set in the time of King Xerxes of Persia, the novel begins with the kidnapping of a young girl and then flashes forward several years to focus on Darya, a young slave who is uncertain of her origins. The story follows Darya and her free friend Parvaneh from service in the household of a Persian army captain to positions in Xerxes's palace as handmaidens to Queen Esther. Swirling around the girls' everyday activities is palace intrigue orchestrated by Haman's henchmen including Behrooz, who has a mysterious and frightening connection to Parvaneh's mother.

Filled with historical details, intrigue, mystery, politics and a host of issues that contemporary readers can identify with, the story has a satisfying ending for both Darya and her mistress Esther and fleshes out the story found in the Megillah. The judges were impressed by the unique approach to the story of Esther, the strongly nuanced characters, the touch of mystery and the relevance of the issues to today's world.

According to Ms Pransky, *The Seventh Handmaiden* was written with her sixth grade ancient history students in mind, and tries "to bring the history and lifestyle of Persia to life, as well as the characters that populate the Megillah and the Jewish story that permeates it." Ms Pransky, a middle school language arts/history teacher, has contributed to Philadelphia area magazines and edited the Marmac Guide to Philadelphia. She has also taught writing to adults and worked as an editor for a textbook publishing company before returning to teaching. *The Seventh Handmaiden* is her first novel for young readers.

In an unusually strong year, the Committee is pleased to name three honorable mention manuscripts: *Go To Yourself* by Stuart Melnick is the story of an Orthodox boy preparing for his bar mitzvah. Through sports he experiences the outside world for the first time and learns about friendship, decisions and their consequences. Diverse characters and a warm family setting are hallmarks of this story. *Raising Canaans* by Catherine Orkin Oskow uses humor to tell the story of a dog-crazy preteen who obsesses over the Canaan dogs that her aunt raises and finally comes to accept that she cannot have a dog. *Reeni's Turn* by Carol Coven Grannick uses verse to follow ballet dancer Reeni from doubt about herself to self-acceptance. The contemporary story focuses on issues common in today's families.



History Teacher Wins 2018 Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award

SUBMITTED BY AILEEN GROSSBERG



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Set in the time of King Xerxes of Persia, the novel begins with the kidnapping of a young girl and then flashes forward several years to focus on Darya, a young slave who is uncertain of her origins. The story follows Darya and her free friend Parvaneh from service in the household of a Persian army captain to positions in Xerxes's palace as handmaidens to Queen Esther. Swirling around the girls' everyday activities is palace intrigue orchestrated by Haman's henchmen including Behrooz, who has a mysterious and frightening connection to Parvaneh's mother.

Filled with historical details, intrigue, mystery, politics, and a host of issues that contemporary readers can identify with, the story has a satisfying ending for both Darya and her mistress Esther and fleshes out the story found in the Megillah.

Ms Pransky, a middle school language arts/history teacher, has contributed to Philadelphia area magazines and edited the Marmac Guide to Philadelphia. She has also taught writing to adults and worked as an editor for a textbook publishing company before returning to teaching. *The Seventh Handmaiden* is her first novel for young readers.

According to Ms Pransky, *The Seventh Handmaiden* was written with her sixth grade ancient history students in mind, and tries "to bring the history and lifestyle of Persia to life, as well as the characters that populate the Megillah and the Jewish story that permeates it."

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In an unusually strong year, the Committee is pleased to name three honorable mention manuscripts:

Go To Yourself is the story of an Orthodox boy preparing for his bar mitzvah. Through sports he experiences the outside world for the first time and learns about friendship, decisions and their consequences. Diverse characters and a warm family setting are hallmarks of this story.

Raising Canaans uses humor to tell the story of a dog-crazy preteen who obsesses over the Canaan dogs that her aunt raises and finally comes to accept that she cannot have a dog.

Reeni's Turn uses verse to follow 10-year-old ballet dancer Reeni from doubt about herself to self-acceptance. The contemporary story focuses on issues common in today's families.

The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award is named after the author of the beloved All-of-a-Kind Family series, which began its life as an unsolicited manuscript. The 2018 Award Committee consists of the following children's literature professionals: Mildred Bernstein, Debbie Feder, Toby Harris, Jill Ratzan and Helene Tuchman.

YALSA to add STBA winner names to their Teen Book Finder Database and mobile application

YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association), a division of ALA (American Library Association) will be adding the last five years Sydney Taylor Book Award teen winners and honors to their [Teen Book Finder Database](#) and [app](#). This is part of an effort to include diverse titles from affiliate divisions of ALA. This database provides access to all of YALSA's annual selected book and media lists, awards, and honorees. These resources are developed by library staff and educators to support the collection development and readers' advisory work of library staff. These books and media have been selected for teens from 12 to 18 years of age, and span a broad range of reading and maturity levels.

Call for Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Competition Committee members

There are two openings on the Manuscript Award Committee beginning in Spring 2018. Members may serve on the committee for five years. Interested AJL members should send a curriculum vitae highlighting experience with children's literature and two writing samples, preferably book reviews.

In addition to being AJL members, committee members must have expertise in Jewish children's literature and be able to meet firm deadlines. Committee members need not be actively working in a library setting.

The committee's charge is to select a work of fiction in English with universal appeal of Jewish content for readers aged 8 to 13 years, both Jewish and non-Jewish. The winning manuscript should reveal positive aspects of Jewish life. The work of the committee runs from October 1 through mid-January.

Application for membership should be emailed to stmacajl@aol.com.

The 2018 Annual Conference in Boston

SUBMITTED BY JIM ROSENBLOOM, CONFERENCE CHAIR



The next AJL conference will be held June 18-20 at Temple Israel in Boston. We have reserved sleeping rooms at the Holiday Inn in Brookline, a half-mile from Temple Israel. Details about transportation and travel can be found on the AJL web site at <http://jewishlibraries.org/meetinginfo.php?id=19&ts=1518036032>. You can register for the conference and hotel on our site. You will also find the preliminary program schedule.

This is a special year for the Sydney Taylor awards. We are celebrating fifty years since the start of these awards. There will be a special body of work award presented at the Awards Dinner to

Harold Grinspoon and PJ Library. On the Sunday before the conference, the SSC Division is sponsoring a special community program at the Boston Public Library (a short train ride away from the hotel). Any AJL member who is already in Boston at that time is welcome to join the event.

Our keynote speaker is Dan Cohen, who was the founding executive director of the Digital Public Library of America. This online site contains a wealth of information of value to L-12 and academic librarians, as well as to lifelong learners.

We are cooperating with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research for a session entitled *The Role of Individuals in Rescuing Vilna Collections*. In addition, Jonathan Brent, executive director of YIVO, will make a special presentation at our Wednesday lunch to Dainius Ulpis, whose father Antanas Ulpis hid and preserved after the war books that survived the Nazi plundering of the YIVO Institute in Vilna. We are honored to collaborate with YIVO in this special public recognition of the courage and dedication of Antanas Ulpis. You can see from our preliminary program the many interesting topics in our sessions. We will have an authors luncheon this year, to which we will invite children's and academic authors to join us at our tables. Since this is an AJL election year, at our annual business meeting we will install our new officers and Council.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Jim Rosenbloom, Conference Chair

Preliminary Conference Schedule - Sunday and Monday

AJL Conference Boston			AJL	
	Sunday Pre-conference	6/17/2017		
Sunday afternoon time TBA	Board Meeting			
Sunday evening time TBA	Council Meeting			
2:00 - 4:00	Sydney Taylor Book Awards at 50 . A family event open to the public at the Boston Public Library			
	Monday	6/18/2017		
9:00-5:00	Registration			
9:00-10:30	Judaica Librarianship Board	Accreditation Committee		
10:30-12:00	RAS Cataloging Committee	Newcomer's Welcome	Bibliographers Meeting	
11:00-6:45	Exhibits			
12:15--1:45	Lunch Keynote Speaker Dan Cohen			
	1-A	1-B	1-C	1-D
2:00-3:30	Jewish Children's Literature: Rachel Kamin and Lisa Silverman 50 Years of Criticism & Controversy in Jewish Children's Literature; Joanna Sussman From Golda Meir to Gal Gadot: Jewish Wonder Women in Children's Literature; Megan Dowd Lambert The Whole Book Approach	Supporting the Creative Mind: How a Librarian's Research Strengthens an Author's Imagination Anita Diamant, Rich Michelson	Social Justice and Jewish Children's Books Elissa Gershowitz moderator, Shoshana Flax, Liz Phipps Soeiro, Hillary Saxton, Jenny Silverman	International Archives: Linda Levi New Resources of the JDC Archives of Interest to Librarians; Dina Herbert Having a Nosh with SNAC (Social Networks and Archival Context) ; Surella Seelig Transnational Archival Collaboration: Connecting the Past, Present, and Future of Global Feminism
3:30-3:45	Break			
	2-A	2-B	2-C	2-D
3:45-5:15	Israel and Judaica Section of the Library of Congress Update Haim Gottschalk, Yisrael Meyerowitz, Gail Shirazi, Aaron Taub, and Galina Teverovsky	Jewish, Middle Grade, and Figuring Out What Kids Will Read Catriella Freedman + two others TBD	A Conversation with Roger Sutton and Leslea Newman with previous and current Sydney Taylor winners	Jews in Central and South America: Amalia S. Levi Tracing the Jews of Barbados: Archival Dispersion and Digital 'Repatriation'; Rita Saccal Sephardim in Argentina, their history and the history of the main Sephardic Institution, the CIDICSEF (Cidicsef-Centro de Investigacion y Difusion Cultura Sefardi - Research and dissemination of Sephardic Culture
	3-A	3-B	3-C	3-D
5:30-7:00	Collaborating with Strangers (CoLAB) Workshops: Jumpstarting Judaica Library Partnerships Bess de Farber and Rebecca Jefferson CoLAB Workshops facilitate interactions of participants during 3-minute speed-meetings. Share facilitative processes for breaking down barriers to collaboration	SSC Roundtable Kathy Bloomfield moderator	Library Collections: Nanette Stahl; The history and contents of the Alexander Kohut Collection of Judaica Yale University Warren Klein, Rabbi Deborah Prinz; Book 'Optioned' for Museum Exhibition: Crossing Boundaries of Venue, Lenders, Content and Theme	
Dinner on your own				

Preliminary Conference Schedule - Tuesday

AJL Conference Boston			AJL	
	Tuesday	6/19/2017		
TIME	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
7:30-8:45	Breakfast			
9:00-5:00	Registraton			
9:00 - 12:30 2:30-5:00	Exhibits			
	4-A	4-B	4-C	4-D
9:00-10:30	Updates from the National Library of Israel	History as inspiration for storytelling Anne Dublin Gathering the Fragments: Researching & Writing a YA Historical Novel ; Norman Finkelstein Knowing What Young Readers Don't: Filling Jewish Holes in Their Knowledge of American History ; Sydelle Pearl How a Milk Can Changed My Life: An Author's Journey: Lisa Schulman - Why Truth in Fiction Matters	The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners Through an Academic Lens Elissa Gershowitz, Cathryn Mercier	Israeli Literature Ruby Namdar discusses his award winning Hebrew novel Ruined House set in New York; Michlean Lowy Amir In the Hebrew Literary Tradition? Israel's Great Authors Write Also for Children and Young Adults
10:30-10:45	Break			
10:45-11:30	RAS Meeting	SSC Meeting		
11:30-12:15	General Membership Meeting & Inauguration of			
12:30-2:30	Lunch: Authors lunch			
	5-A	5-B	5-C	5-D
2:45-4:15	Collections at Univ. of Michigan Elliot Gertel Portal of Hope: The Elazar Troppe/Hoffman Family Library of Petaḥ-Tikvahabilia at Michigan; Gabriel Mordoch, Dave Harris, Elliot Gertel The correspondence of Bracha Fuld (Berlin, 1926 - Tel Aviv, 1946) in the Netzorg Family Papers collection at the University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library	Libraries Collecting Artifacts: Ravit David Imaging the story of European Synagogues in Postcards, 1910 – 1940; Amira Eran The main features of the kibbutz Passover Haggadah collections; Haim Gottschalk The Home Library – Provenance and reading habit	Meet The Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners moderated by Susan Kusel	Tools for Identifying and Cataloging Collections: ackie Ben-Efraim Identifying and Preserving Media Collections; Michelle Chesner Footprints Redux: Utilizing Collaboration to Build Strong Projects; Marlene Schiffman NACO after 25 Years: The Yeshiva University Experience
4:15-4:30	Break			
	6-A	6-B	6-C	6-D
4:30-6:00	Archives and War: Harriet Feinberg Theft and recovery: The fate of Rosa Manus'feminist archive in the context of Nazi looting of archives and libraries in the Netherlands; Monika Biesaga Bibliocaust survivors – the fate of the Jewish book collections in Poland after 1945; Shulamith Berger The Great War: World War I in the collections of the Yeshiva University Libraries	Librarians and Media: Amanda (Miryem-Khaye) Seigel "My Life": Bertha Kalich, Found in Translation; Ellen Share Their Love of children; David Levy Reel Jews	A Presentation by Members of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee members, moderated by Susan Kusel	Digitizing Archival Collections Michael Kent Digital Public Lab, Library and Archives Canada ; Arthur Kiron Judaica Digital Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries; Digital Projects at the National Library Israel
6:15 - 8:00	Dinner Awards			

Preliminary Conference Schedule - Wednesday

AJL conference Boston				AJL
	Wednesday	6/20/2017		
TIME	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
7:30-8:45	Breakfast			
9:00-1:00	Registration			
9:00-12:00	Exhibits			
	7-A	7-B	7-C	7-D
9:00-10:30	European Libraries and Institutions: Zilvinas Beliauskas Vilnius Jewish Public Library's Role in Modern Lithuanian Identity Building -- from Exclusive to Inclusive ; Robin Nobel Rothschild Foundation support for European Libraries; Rebecca Landau Revitalization of Jewish Monuments in the Czech Republic: A Tour of Preserved and Restored Sites	Joint Judaica Digital Projects Chair and Moderator: Roberta Newman ; Charles Berlin Harvard Joint Projects: Development and Evolution; Violet Radnofsky Documenting Israel Through the Harvard Library Judaica Digital Project; Laurel Wolfson (HUC) ; TBD (NLI)	Poetry Reading and Discussion Participants: Jennifer Barber, Deborah Leipziger, Eve Rifkah, and Yermiyahu Ahron Taub.	Library Policies: Kathleen Bloomfield Workshop: Advocating for Your Library: What Your Board Wants to Know; Amy Pattee Workshop: Statements of Value: Library Collection Development Policies
10:30-10:45	Break			
	8-A	8-B	8-C	8-D
10:45-12:15	Engaging with Art: Rachel Ariel Bringing Israeli art to America: The unique story of Kathryn Yochelson; Debra Band Words, Color and Gold: Illuminating Jewish Values through Engaging with Jewish Art; Elena Hoffenberg Crying over Spilled Ink: A Century of John Singer Sargent's "The Synagogue" in the Boston Public Library	Stories to Savor: a Presentation by the AJL Jewish Fiction Award Committee: Rachel Kamin, Roz Reisner, Yermiyahu Ahron Taub, and Rachel Kadish, the winner of the 2018 AJL Jewish Fiction Award	The Role of Individuals in Rescuing the Vilna Collections Chair and Moderator: Roberta Newman, Presenters: Prof. David Fishman, Lara Lempert, Sarah Ponichtera, Lyudmila Sholokhova	
12:30-2:15	Lunch Fannie Goldstein Awards YIVO award ceremony			
2:30-3:30	Conference recap			
tours				

Student Scholarship Committee Announcement

SUBMITTED BY SARAH BARNARD

The Student Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that we will be offering the opportunity for students pursuing library studies to apply to for a conference subvention and academic scholarship. These are particularly exciting because we are able to encourage students to pursue Judaica librarianship and connect students with leaders in the field that can guide them through their studies and entrance into the professional library world. Of special note for 2018, we hope to have a special scholarship for a Canadian student pursuing library studies. Stay tuned for more information, application information and deadlines.

Chapter Chatter

AJL-ONTARIO

SUBMITTED BY ANNE DUBLIN

The aim of the Ontario chapter of AJL is to promote Canadian-Jewish literature, history and scholarship, and to provide a forum for Ontario librarians working in Judaica librarianship. In keeping with our mandate, we have developed a new website: <http://www.ajlontario.org>. Please check it out as a platform to exchange ideas and knowledge, discuss common concerns, and find peer support. Here you will find information about membership, programs, publications, and useful links. We look forward to your input. If you have suggestions or information you would like to share, please email natalia.skripkin@gmail.com.

AJL SOUTH CALIFORNIA

SUBMITTED BY ELLEN COLE



Our first big program in October 2017 was a delightful tour of libraries in exotic nations by member David Hirsch, UCLA Librarian for Jewish and Middle Eastern Studies. The photo shows David with some of our AJLSC board members and directors following his talk, written up in last issue's AJL News.

As you read this we are planning our February meeting at the Los Angeles Sephardic Temple. Member of AJLSC, Annette Goldsmith, will discuss her new book about International Children's Literature. The chapter on Israeli children's literature was written by AJLSC member Lisa Silverman.

Don't forget to connect to AJLSC on [Facebook](#). Look for "AJLSC" and "like" us. For other news, visit our fabulous [chapter website](#) run by member Barbara Leff. We are current and interesting!

AJL Elections

SUBMITTED BY DANIEL SCHEIDE AND DINA HERBERT ON BEHALF OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dear AJL Members,

AJL will hold its regular biennial election May 1 to May 30, 2018. Once again, we will be voting by electronic ballot. It's very important that we have up-to-date email addresses for all members. If your email address has changed, please contact our vice-president for membership, Shulamis Hes at ajlmembership@gmail.com.

Ballots will be sent to all current AJL members by email on May 1. If you do not receive one on May 1, please contact Joy Kingsolver at [630-988-4726](tel:630-988-4726) or joy.kingsolver@gmail.com. If you need a paper ballot, please call Joy to request one. Please note that only current members are eligible to vote. If you have let your membership lapse, now is the time to renew! You can join or renew via the AJL website (jewishlibraries.org) or contact Shulamis Hes for membership questions.

Here is our current slate of nominees:

AJL Vice-President/President Elect: Kathy Bloomfield

Secretary: Nancy Sack

Treasurer: Holly Zimmerman

Vice-President for Development: Rebecca Jefferson

Vice-President for Membership: TBA

RAS President: Michelle Chesner

RAS VP: Amalia Levi, Rachel Ariel

SSC President: TBA

SSC VP: Ellen Share

Keep Up to Date with Hasafran

Hasafran is the electronic discussion list of the Association of Jewish Libraries. It was created in 1991 to provide a forum for the discussion of Judaica librarianship. The list is moderated by Joseph (Yossi) Galron, Jewish studies librarian at The Ohio State University. The views expressed in the list are the opinions of the participants and not necessarily the views of the moderator or of AJL.

To subscribe to Hasafran, please see instructions at

To post a message to Hasafran, send your message to: hasafran@lists.osu.edu

You will receive a confirmation message.

A keyword-searchable [archive](#) of Hasafran messages posted since June 12, 2003 is now available.

Scholarship Committee Report

SUBMITTED BY SARAH BARNARD, SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Scholarship Fund needs help. We gratefully accept donations which can be in memory or in honor of someone. We will send a tribute card (or several). Please include the following information with your donation: your name and address, the name(s) and addresses of the recipient(s) of the tribute card, the reason for the tribute and your email address in case there are questions. Send check donations to:

Sarah M. Barnard (sarmarbar68@gmail.com)

5646 Hunters Lake

Cincinnati, OH 45249

AJL Scholarship Donation Form

Name of Donor:

Address and email of Donor:

Donation made in honor/memory of:

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Address of person(s):

Notes:

Credits and Contact

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The AJL Newsletter (Irene Levin-Wixman z"l, founding editor) was published in print from 1979 to 2010 by the Association of Jewish Libraries to inform members about AJL activities and issues related to Judaica libraries. As of January 2011 it is split into two separate electronic publications – the AJL News and the AJL Reviews. Receipt of these publications is one of the benefits of membership. Please see the AJL website at <http://www.jewishlibraries.org> for membership rates.

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Please send children's and YA books for review to Rachel Kamin

All links to online resources were checked for accuracy on February 27, 2018.

We cannot be responsible for broken links to those resources in the future.

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