

Association of Jewish Libraries

NEWS

May/June 2014

Volume IV, No.2

AJL Election, May 1-30, 2014

AJL will hold the regular biennial election **May 1 to May 30, 2014**. Once again, we will be voting by electronic ballot. If your email address has changed recently, please contact our vice-president for membership, Sheryl Stahl at sstahl@huc.edu.

Ballots will be sent to all current AJL members by email on May 1. If you do not receive one, please contact Joy Kingsolver at 630-988-4726 or joy.kingsolver@gmail.com. If you need a paper ballot, please call Joy to request one.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR AJL 2014-2016

President: Yaffa Weisman. (This office is not voted upon since President is automatically determined by being President Elect).

Current position: President/President Elect
Director, The Frances-Henry Library, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, CA

Vice President/President Elect: Amalia Warshenbrot

Current Position: President of the SSC Division
Director Emerita of the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Center, Charlotte, NC

Vice President for Membership: Sheryl Stahl

Current Position: Vice President for Membership
Senior Associate Librarian, Frances-Henry Library, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, CA

Vice President for Development: James Rosenbloom

Current Position: Past President
Judaica Librarian, Brandeis University

Treasurer: Deborah Stern

Current Position: Treasurer
Director, Mordecai M. Kaplan Library, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncote, PA

Secretary: Marga Hirsch

Director, Edmond de Rothschild Library & Publications Editor, Park Avenue Synagogue, NY, NY

RAS OFFICERS

RAS President: Sharon Benamou

Current Position: RAS Vice President
Hebraica/Judaica Catalog Librarian, University of California at Los Angeles

RAS Vice President: Rebecca Jefferson

Head of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

SSC OFFICERS

SSC President: Aimee Lurie

Current Position: Chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee
The Anne Frank Library, The Agnon School, Beachwood, OH

SSC Vice President: Chaya Wiesman

Associate Librarian at Ramaz Upper School, NY, NY

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.

Experience Las Vegas

It is not too late to register for the 49th Annual Association of Jewish Libraries Conference to be held at the Westin Hotel in Las Vegas, June 22-25, 2014. The hotel is providing rooms at conference rates for 3 days pre and post conference with the possibility of even extending those through ALA for those who want to stay longer! Registration information is on the AJL website at www.jewishlibraries.org. Please note that those paying by check must still register online and remember to send the check to Debbie Stern. Presenters and exhibitors and guests must also register online so we can prepare nametags.

This year we will have two optional programs:

- 1) A literary agent will read and critique up to 9 manuscripts. She will meet with the authors and make her suggestions during the conference. There is an additional fee for the critique.
- 2) A workshop led by Barbara Krasner (this year's Kar-Ben scholarship awardee and author of *The Whole Megillah*) on writing Jewish literature for children will be held on Wednesday morning. The session has a limit of 12 participants. An additional fee will apply.

The "High Roller Wheel" is now open. It is directly behind our hotel and will provide the most spectacular views of the Strip and the Las Vegas valley. It was patterned after the London Eye but is even larger (of course!) Since Tuesday is a program free evening, it might be a good time to try it out.

Since this is the land of Elvis, don't be surprised if "he" stops by to say hello! Don't miss this chance to meet and share and learn.



Association of Jewish Libraries 49th Annual Conference Westin Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Sunday, June 22, 2014

9:00-6:00 **Registration** [*Loft*]

10:00-12:00 **Open House at the Sperling Kronberg Mack Holocaust Resource Center**
(optional event)

12:00-3:00 **Board meeting** [*Palo Verde A*]

3:00-4:00 **Exhibits open until dinner** [*Acacia A/B*]

4:00-5:00 **Book Repair in a Digital World (Jackie BenEfraim)** [*Palo Verde B*]
So You Want to Get Published: Some Dos and Don'ts in Scholarly Publishing
(Rachel Lekhet-Mor) [*Mesquite A*]

5:00-5:30 **New attendees meeting** [*Causarina*]

5:30-6:30 **TED Talks:** [*Causarina*]

Las Vegas Jewish History and the Mob (Geoff Schumacher and Elliot Karp)
A Poetry Reading (M.E. Silverman)
Importance of Folktales (Ann Stampler)

- 6:15-6:45 **Egalitarian Mincha and Maariv Minyan** [*Palo Verde B*]
Orthodox Mincha and Maariv Minyan [*Palo Verde A*]
- 6:30-8:00 **Dinner** [*Acacia ABCD*]
- 8:15-9:15 **Roundtables:**
Day Schools [*Palo Verde A*]
Synagogues and Centers [*Palo Verde B*]
Ordering/Collection Development [*Mesquite AB*]
- 9:30-10:30 **Committee meetings**

Monday, June 23, 2014

- 6:30-7:00 **Morning Walk** [*Meet in Loft by the Registration Desk*]
- 7:00-7:45 **Egalitarian Minyan** [*Palo Verde B*]
Orthodox Minyan [*Palo Verde A*]
- 7:00-8:30 **Breakfast** [*Acacia ABCD*]
- 7:30-8:30 **OPALS User Group** [*Mesquite B*]
- 8:00-5:00 **Registration** [*Loft*]
- 8:30-9:30 **Exhibit time** [*Acacia AB*]
Exhibit hall open all day
- 9:00-9:30 **Book launch: “Book Launch and signing of *Tucson Jo* by Carol Matas (Published by **Fictive Press**, 2014) [*Causarina*]**
- 9:30-10:15 **Bringing Research to Life: The Crucial Role of Librarians in Meeting – and Exceeding – the Common Core Standards** (Lisa Hansel) [*Causarina*]
- 10:30-12:00 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**
1A) **Peron and the Jews** (Rita Saccal) [*Mesquite A*]
Convivencia: Jews in the Golden Age of Spain (Laurel Corona)
- 1B) **Building a Judaic Collection in a Public Library** (Carla Trounson) [*Palo Verde A*]
Where Do We Go From Here? A Roundtable Discussion about the future of Judaic Librarianship (Etta Gold)
- 1C) **National Library of Israel: Update 2014** (Elhanan Adler and Marina Goldsmith) [*Palo Verde B*]
- 1D) **Order in the Core: Using Common Core as Library Curriculum** [*Mesquite B*]
(Ben Pastcan/Robin Gluck)
The Stones Weep: Teaching the Holocaust through Art (Miriam Brysk/Margaret Lincoln)
- 12:00-1:00 **Lunch/Installation of new Board/ Outgoing President’s speech** [*Acacia ABCD*]
- 1:15-1:45 **SSC Meeting** – Accreditation Awards presented at SSC Meeting [*Palo Verde A*]
RAS Meeting [*Palo Verde B*]
- 1:45-2:30 **General Membership meeting** [*Causarina*]
- 2:30-4:00 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**
2A) **Jewish Cookbooks as Corpus: Mining for matzo balls using digital humanities**

research tools/ (David Hirsch and Anna Levia) [*Mesquite A*]
A Modern Hebrew Literature Bio-Bibliographic Lexicon (Yossi Galron)

- 2B) **Women of Valor: Female Resistance to the Nazis** (Joanne Gilbert) [*Palo Verde A*]
Writing the Holocaust: the Inner and Outer Struggles (Carol Matas)
- 2C) **Behind the Scenes of the Sydney Taylor Awards** (Sydney Taylor Committee) [*Causarina*]
- 2D) **Accessing the Iraqi Jewish Archive** (Dina Herbert) [*Palo Verde B*]
The North African Jewish Manuscript Collection at the Yale University Library
(Nanette Stahl)

4:15-5:45 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**

- 3A) **Place in Space: Honoring Our Ancestral Communities Online** (Dardashti) [*Mesquite B*]
Jewish Refugees in Shanghai: Curating Personal Artifacts (Komar)
- 3B) **Strategic Plan/** (Yaffa Weissman) [*Palo Verde A*]
2 Jews & 3 Opinions: What do YOU want from AJL? (New Board members)
- 3C) **Sydney Taylor, Part 2** [*Causarina*]
- 3D) **Library of Congress Update** (Marina Korenberg, Gail Shirazi, Aaron Taub, and Galina Teverovsky) [*Palo Verde B*]

5:45-6:15 **Exhibit only time** [*Acacia AB*]

6:00-6:30 **Mincha and Maarev Services**
Egalitarian Minyan [*Palo Verde B*]
Orthodox Minyan [*Palo Verde A*]

6:15-7:15 **Reception** (exhibits can stay open during Reception, especially booksellers) [*Loft*]

7:30-9:30 **Awards Banquet** [*Acacia ABCD*]

9:30-10:30 **Committee meetings**

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

6:30-7:00 **Morning Walk** [*Meet in Loft by Registration Desk*]

7:00-8:00 **Registration** [*Loft*]

7:00-7:45 **Egalitarian and Orthodox Services**
Egalitarian Minyan [*Palo Verde B*]
Orthodox Minyan [*Palo Verde A*]

8:00-9:30 **Breakfast reception and tour at UNLV Lied Library**
[*Bus leaves from front of Hotel at 8:00 AM*]

9:30-10:30 **Between Being-Wise and Not-Knowing-What-To-Ask: Jewish Librarianship and Digital Humanities** (Professor Dr. Emile Schrijver) [*UNLV Library*]

10:30-10:45 **Bus back to Westin Hotel** [*Bus leaves UNLV at 10:40*]

11:00-1:00 **Registration** [*Loft*]

11:00-4:00 **Exhibits open** [*Acacia AB*]

- 11:00-12:30 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**
- 4A) **All-of-a-Kind Family, Not Any More/ High Holidays and Beyond** [*Mesquite A*]
(Joni Sussman, Mira Reisberg, Ann Stampler, Sylvia Rouss)
 - 4B) **The Old Jewish Library in Mainz** (Prof. Dr. Andreas Lehnhardt) [*Palo Verde B*]
Contemporary World Jewish Publications - Collection Assessment / Collection Building: The Case of the Harvard Judaica Collection (Elizabeth Vernon)
 - 4C) **Roundtable on Digital Humanities** (Michelle Chesner/Marianne Buehler/Arthur Kiron) [*Causarina*]
 - 4D) **Peek into Programming** (Elizabeth Stabler) [*Palo Verde A*]
What Are We Reading? The Latest and Greatest in Jewish Adult Fiction (Kamin/Tillman)
- 12:30-1:30 **Exhibit time** [*Acacia AB*]
- 12:30-1:30 **Ideas for Supporting Jewish Studies Research - An Interactive Session with EBSCO's Executive Vice President** (Sam Brooks) [*Palo Verde B*]
- 1:30-2:30 **Awards Lunch** [*Acacia ABCD*]
Presentation of Life Membership, Scholarships, Wikler-Groner Award
- 2:30-3:45 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**
- 5A) **The Jewish Valuesfinder: The Online Database of Jewish Children's Books - Does It Still Exist and How Do I Access It?/ An All School Read** (Heather Lenson) [*Mesquite A*]
(Elaine Kaplan/Julia Weinstein)
 - 5B) **The Koren Talmud/ The Forgery of the Talmud Yerushalmi Seder Kodashim: How Were So Many Fooled?** (Yoram Bitton) [*Palo Verde A*]
 - 5C) **Digital Citizenship in the Jewish School Library/ Educating Students to be Responsible Digital Citizens** (Karen Ulric) [*Mesquite B*]
(Cherille Berman)
 - 5D) **OCLC** [*Palo Verde B*]
- 4:00-5:30 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**
- 6A) **Building the Credible World: The Importance of History in Jewish Children's Books** (Barbara Krasner) [*Mesquite A*]
Website 613: Creative Ways to Provide Your Patrons with Jewish Resources (Joyce Levine)
 - 6B) **Strategic Plan/ How to Get Attention aka Library Advocacy** (Yaffa Weissman) [*Mesquite B*]
(Toby Harris)
 - 6C) **RAS Cataloging** [*Palo Verde B*]
 - 6D) **Halakha and Netiquette** (Dr. David Levy) [*Palo Verde A*]
Discussion on Media Bias (Wendy Diamond)
- 5:30-6:30 **TED talks:** [*Causarina*]
Sephardic Genealogy: An Overview (Schelly Talalay Dardashti)
Telling the Tales (Sharon Elswit)
Books Plucked from the Fire: A Litvak Child's Bookshelf (Shuli Berger)
Poetry Reading (Yermiyahu Aharon Taub)
Retirement – Then What? (Brian Davis)
- 6:45-7:00 **Roundtable discussions of TED talks** [*Causarina*]

6:15-7:00 **Mincha and Maarev Services**

Egalitarian Mincha and Maariv Minyan [*Palo Verde B*]

Orthodox Mincha and Maariv Minyan [*Palo Verde A*]

7:00-7:15 **Closing of conference by Yaffa Weissman** [*Causarina*]

Free night (good time to visit the Strip or see a show, ride the new Las Vegas “High Rollers” version of the London Eye directly behind the hotel)

Film: “Dancing on the Streets in Jaffa” [*Causarina*]

Wednesday

Box breakfast and/or lunch as option

9:00-3:00 **Council meeting** (Continental breakfast and lunch provided for Council members)

9:00-1:00 **Writers’ Workshop** (Barbara Krasner) (limit 12) additional fee

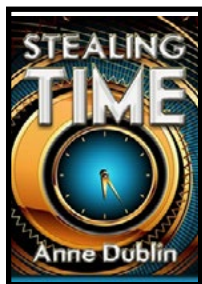
Optional tours scheduled on your own or through the concierge (Red Rock, Lake Mead, Hoover Dam, Mob Museum, Grand Canyon, Springs Preserve, Zipline, or???)

** A literary agent will be available to read manuscripts and give an evaluation throughout the conference. (additional fee – must sign up in advance)

NOTE: This is a preliminary schedule. Times and sessions may change. See the program book for final sessions and locations!

Member News

AJL members do not rest.....

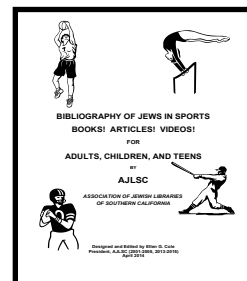


A New Novel from Anne Dublin

Anne Dublin’s launch of her historical novel, *Stealing Time*, will take place on Sun. June 8, 1.30 p.m., at Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto. Two boys travel back in time to six different places in the world. They learn about how time is measured and meet people who made important discoveries. In order to save themselves and get back to the present, the boys must overcome their personal issues and work together to solve the tough problems they encounter. (Toronto: Dundurn, 2014.) For ages 10 and up. A review of *Stealing Time* is included in May-June 2014 issue of *AJL Reviews*.

Sports Bibliography Available

A new bibliography entitled *Bibliography Of Jews In Sports: Books! Articles! Videos! For Adults, Children, And Teens* has been compiled by the Association Of Jewish Libraries Of Southern California. It is currently available on the [ALSC website](#) and will be added to the [AJL Bibliography Bank](#) in the near future.



DON'T FORGET TO READ THE MAY/JUNE 2014 ISSUE OF AJL REVIEWS!

OVER 45 PAGES OF REVIEWS!

AJL Member Etta Gold Honored at Temple Beth Am

BY HEIDI ESTRIN

Etta Gold has been a member of AJL for many years, has served on many committees and in several council positions, and was the recipient of the 2011 Fanny Goldstein Merit Award for loyal and ongoing contributions to AJL and the profession.

As Etta prepares to move from her full-time position as adult and school librarian at Temple Beth Am in Miami to a less frenetic position working only with the adults, the synagogue sisterhood decided to honor her with a special Shabbat service and dinner on April 25, 2014. This lovely affair included a slideshow featuring quite a



Left to right: Heidi Estrin, Rabbi Terry Bookman, Etta Gold at Temple Beth Am

few AJL members, as many of the photos were taken over the years at our conferences. The crowning moment of the event was Etta's own speech. Please enjoy this excerpt from Etta's remarks!

"There was a marvelous article in Lilith magazine not too long ago by a fellow local librarian, Nancy Maxwell, in which she talks about the late comedian Lenny Bruce. He had a famous routine where he would tick off items he considered inherently Jewish and non-Jewish. Trailer parks, the Marine Corps and white bread were goyish; pumpernickel bread, macaroons and black cherry soda were Jewish. Libraries, I submit, are inherently Jewish. Nancy goes on to say that reading itself has never been enough for the Jews, myself included. It's the talking about what we've read, the discussing, the arguing, the banter - that's what makes reading infinitely more engaging and fun - and very Jewish!

In point of fact, what we do every week in synagogues around the world is talk about what we've read. That is Torah study. Torah study is absolutely the world's oldest book club. Readers gather to talk about the same book regularly - it's in our DNA. Maybe that's why I have such a passion for this job - synagogue librarian. Reading, reading, reading, and then talking about the books! What could be better?

Infact, there's an old joke about a congregation that gets a new rabbi; the congregants approach the rabbi about whether they should stand for the Shema or not. The rabbi convenes a meeting. A representative for one side rises and makes a compelling argument for standing. The rabbi hears the argument and says, "you're right." Another argues that the congregation should be seated. The rabbi responds, "you're right." Hearing this, another congregant objects: "How can both be right? You just told two people on opposite sides of the issue that they were both right. To this, the rabbi responds, "you're right!" The point of this characteristically Jewish joke is that truth may lie precisely in the debate itself.

Yes, let's not concern ourselves with a single answer, let's talk and talk about all the questions. As the great American writer Edmund Wilson once said, "No two persons ever read the same book." And now we add e-books to the party. Print-only books have had a nice five hundred and fifty year run, but now we have a plethora of formats from which to choose. There was a time when librarians were horrified by the idea of a library without clay tablets or without manuscripts, but they got over it, and now we move on to the next stage. No problem: a library is about content, resources, not about format. Libraries and books are here to stay, and as the poet Joseph Brodsky says, "There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them."

Groner-Wikler Scholarship Awarded to Barbara Krasner

BY: AMALIA WARSHENBROT, CHAIR OF THE GRONER-WIKLER SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

When Kar-Ben Publishing founders Judy Groner and Madeline Wikler decided to retire in 2013, Joni Sussman, publisher at Kar-Ben, approached AJL president Heidi Estrin and offered to honor the founders with a scholarship in their name. The scholarship of \$1,000 will be for conference attendance. It will be given annually to an AJL member who demonstrates dedication to Jewish children's literature or library services. It is so appropriate that the publishers of books that are on the shelves of so many synagogue, school or center libraries will support librarians who work with and advocate for the readers of those very books.

As you all know, the AJL Board and Council is constantly looking for sources of support to make it possible for librarians to attend conferences, so it goes without saying that we welcomed the thoughtful gift and immediately formed a committee made up of the SSC President and Vice President and the Children's Books Editor(s) of *AJL Reviews*. In the future, the previous year's winner of this award will also join the selection committee. After serious deliberations, the following criteria for the scholarship were created (thank you to Anne Dublin for her attention to detail):

- Active involvement in the Judaic library profession or related fields promoting Jewish children's literacy
- Strong advocacy for library/literacy services to children and youth
- Positive role model to colleagues and the wider community
- Innovative approaches to Jewish children's literature or library services

We received several impressive applications. The committee voted unanimously to award the first scholarship to Barbara Krasner.



Barbara Krasner has been involved in Jewish children's literature since 2003 when she joined the committee to host and organize the annual *Jewish Children's Writers & Illustrators Conference* in New York City. In 2010, she launched her blog, *The Whole Megillah | The Writer's Resource for Jewish Story*. As a result of her book reviews on her blog, she was invited to apply to the *Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee* and has been a member since 2011. Barbara holds an MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and is the author of the forthcoming picture book, *Goldie Takes a Stand! Golda Meir's First Crusade* (Kar-Ben, September 2014). She leads a Jewish children's book writing workshop at the Highlights Foundation and teaches creative writing and children's literature at William Paterson University in New Jersey.

In a letter of recommendation, Barbara Bietz, Past Chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee wrote: *"I admire Barbara both personally and professionally. Barbara's contributions to AJL and Jewish literature for children are evident in the numerous endeavors in which she participates. Barbara is passionate about Jewish children's literature. She is an author, educator, blogger, reviewer, and member of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee....Most importantly, Barbara gives back. She graciously shares her knowledge and experience... I cannot imagine a more deserving candidate"*. Other recommendations echoed these sentiments.

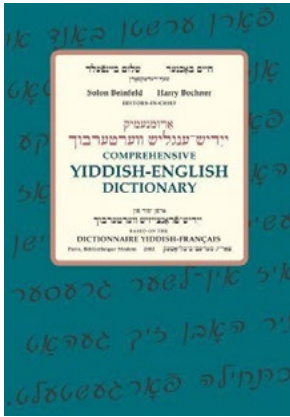
The award ceremony will take place at the award lunch on Tuesday, June 24th as a part of the 49th annual AJL conference in Las Vegas, NV.

We are grateful to Kar-Ben Publishing for their generous gift. This scholarship will make it possible for individuals who make significant contribution to the field of Jewish children's literature and services to attend the annual conference, where they can benefit from the conference sessions and meeting other AJL members.

Thank you to Heidi Estrin, Rachel Kamin and Lisa Silverman for their unbiased, professional and wise contribution to the process of establishing this new scholarship. And mazal tov, Barbara!

AJL Judaic Reference Award Winners Announced

The AJL Judaica Reference Award, funded by Dr. Greta Silver of New York City, was established to encourage the publication of outstanding Judaica reference books. The AJL Judaica Bibliography Award, funded by Eric Chaim Kline of Los Angeles, was established to encourage the publication of outstanding Judaica bibliographies. Publishers wishing to submit books or inquire about the award should contact the Reference and Bibliography Awards Committee chair, [Sharon Benamou](#).



The Comprehensive Yiddish-English Dictionary, Bloomington, Ind. : Indiana University Press, 2013

The *Comprehensive Yiddish-English Dictionary* is an important tool of reference for anyone in the Anglosphere wanting to study the vast array of Yiddish literature. The entries in this dictionary are derived from an earlier landmark reference tool, the *Dictionnaire Yiddish-Français* by Yitskhok Niborski and Bernard Vaisbrot, published by the Bibliothèque Medem in Paris in 2002.

This is a far-reaching reference tool that is not only accessible to beginners, it also serves as an indispensable guide for advanced students, researchers and translators, as well as providing a major teaching aid for instructors. The work underwent thorough review with every one of the 53,000 definitions being checked at least four times by no less than three different team members. Standard and literary forms were analyzed alongside forms recovered from conversational usage and from all sources of written Yiddish, including those of Aramaic, Germanic, Romance and Slavic origin.



Mi-kitve ha-'itim: 'itonut ha-haškalah me-1820 'ad 1845: maftehot mu'arim le-khitve-ha-'et ha-'Ivriyim shel ha-Haškalah be-Holand, Galitsyah, Germanyah ve-Liṭa, 580-606, Jerusalem, Magnes, 2013 (Hebrew)

[English title: *Journals of the Haskalah 1820 to 1845: monographs and annotated indices to eight Hebrew periodicals In Holland, Galicia, Germany and Lithuania*]

This is the fourth book in a series of bibliographies by Moshe Peli on the periodicals of the Haskalah. The book is a bibliography of eight journals of Haskalah from 1820-1845. The journals are from the Netherlands, Galicia, Germany and Lithuania. The author provides historical background and information about each periodical which is very helpful to understand why each periodical was published. Each periodical, like *Zion* and *Bikurei To'elet*, is analyzed separately. The author organizes the bibliography alphabetically by topic. For each periodical, he provides a list of articles dealing with various subject matters such as Talmud, Hebrew language, and the Jewish calendar. For scholars of the Haskalah period, this book is a key to finding materials in periodicals of the time.

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 <https://lists.service.ohio-state.edu/mailman/listinfo/hasafran>

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.

Chapter Chatter

TOBY ROSSNER, CHAPTER RELATIONS COMMITTEE

ATLANTA CHAPTER (AJL-ATLANTA)

Submitted by Stacy Brown (The Alfred and Adele Davis Academy), President

The Atlanta Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries met on January 23rd at the Temple Sinai Library. We shared new resources, analyzing and reviewing these new materials for consideration for our own collections. We discussed the new position of library specialist on the Jewish Day School Council. The specialist will recommend library materials that will enhance each day school's library collection. This position is being funded by the Marcus Foundation. Our chapter is making recommendations of qualified candidates for this position. Please contact Stacy Brown at sbrown@davisacademy.org if there is interest in this position.

Ruth E. Levy of *Though Shalt Read*, brought Allegra Magrisso, author of the award-winning book *When Sarah Laughed*, to Atlanta in March. Our next meeting will be taking place in May at the Davis Academy.

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER (LI-AJL)

Submitted by Wendy A. Marx, Chapter President

Overwhelmed with snow this winter, our LI-AJL didn't plan any programming. With spring here, though, watch out.....

May

- We will man a booth at the local Long Island Library Conference, highlighting who we are and what we do, getting new members and renewing former ones in the process.
- Our annual public librarian's meeting will feature Dr. Carol Diamant, who will present a talk on Contemporary Israeli Literature: A Women's Point of View.

June

- Once again we will have our annual dinner out where, as librarians and friends, we can talk about anything but shop.

July

- We always enjoy our annual planning meeting and pool party.

Great news! Our past president Rabbi, Dr. Leslie Schotz has published his first book, *Shalom, A Congregational Guide to Jewish Meditation*, available on Amazon. For further details, kindly contact Rabbi Schotz at Rabbischotz@optonline.net.

Like other groups, our funds are low. We are working on ways to increase our funds. If anyone out there has already written a proposal/grant that can be edited to suit our group's needs, please contact me at xmarx@aol.com.

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA (AJL-NYMA)

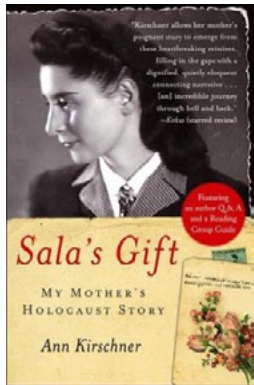
Submitted by Toby Krauscz, Judaica Librarian, Touro College

"RAIDING THE REFERENCES - HOW AND WHERE WE FOUND THE FACTS"

The New York Metropolitan Area Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL-NYMA) held its annual Reference Workshop on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at Temple Emanu-El. The atmosphere was warm and convivial as colleagues, friends, and new faces mingled before the first guest speaker took the stage.

Ann Kirschner, University Dean, Macauley Honors College, CUNY, and author of *Sala's Gift and Lady at the O.K. Corral: The True Story of Josephine Marcus Earp*, spoke first, followed by Sharon Elswit, Librarian, and author of *The Jewish Story Finder*. Both authors discussed the process of gathering

information in preparation for writing a book.



With a fascinating PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Kirschner took us through the process that led to her first book, *Sala's Gift*, which has been translated into seven different languages and adapted into a play meant for college and high school performers. The author related how her mother, the titular Sala, never spoke about her experiences going through the war as Ms. Kirschner was growing up. That changed right before Sala was to enter the hospital for heart surgery. She gave her daughter a box that contained a treasure far greater than jewels, a box that contained postcards, pictures, over 350 letters and even a diary that began the day that Sala left home to her first labor camp. This gift, Ms. Kirschner said, was what changed her from businesswoman into historian. Who, after all, gets to experience what their mother went through as a young woman? Ms. Kirschner would now be able to, provided she could get the letters, postcards, and diary translated. This was where the librarians came in.

Ms. Kirschner spoke eloquently of the difference between doing research in 1991 as opposed to doing it now, in 2014. Back then, she did not know what to do with the treasure she had been given. Luckily, she had worked summers at the New York Public Library as a volunteer, so she had an idea of where to begin the monumental task of digitizing, translating, indexing, and preserving this precious slice of history, spanning from the beginning of the war in 1940 until and beyond when Sala was liberated and came to the United States. Sala was among the first of the Jews to be deported from Poland. Through the use of a map, Ms. Kirschner illustrated the history of the region Sala was born in and explained that the Germans had set up a network of labor camps to build a highway into the rest of Europe through Poland, and that Sala's journey took her to those labor camps, which did not become as notorious as their eventual counterparts, the extermination camps.

Sala was taken under the wing of Ala Gertner, who was to become a prominent figure due to her participation in the only armed uprising in Auschwitz. Ala taught Sala German, and helped her with the transition into a labor camp worker. When Sala was finally liberated, a series of happy coincidences led her to her sisters, the only other family members to survive the war. She met Ms. Kirschner's father at Rosh Hashanah services in one of the only synagogues to have survived Kristallnacht. The rest, as Ms. Kirschner said, was history.

The first logical step would be to find a translator, but not just any translator: someone who would be familiar not only with the primary language of the letters, but also with the Yiddish coding that ran through much of Sala's letters. Ms. Kirschner brought the material to YIVO first, specifically to Zachary Baker, who sent her to Lucjan Dobrozycki and eventually to Dina Abromowicz, who recognized the camps Sala referred to as being part of the "Shmeltz Network." The author's partners at NYPL included Lola Szladits, David Ferrio, and curator Jill Vexler. Back in 1991, the process involved a lot of legwork to find the right people to help Ms. Kirschner with the technical details. This process turned the former businesswoman into an author and historian, eventually leading to a best-selling book and an exhibition of the letters at NYPL that was visited by about 30,000 people. Ms. Kirschner donated the letters to NYPL but retained the intellectual property rights together with thirty letters that would remain in the family to be passed down through the generations. Sala's legacy would continue.

Her next book, *Lady at the OK Corral*, involved a very different research process. Now that Ms. Kirschner had the experience, she could expand her horizons. She mentioned several specific resources that did and would come in handy for the process, highlighting Reddit, WorldCat, Google, Evernote, the Library of Congress's American Memory project, Ancestry.com, and the best place to start, Wikipedia.

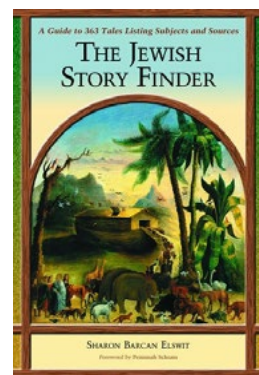
The story of Wyatt Earp, the hero of the O.K. Corral, was more well-tread territory than Sala's story, surrounded by mythology that had to be dug through to find the true story. Ms. Kirschner's interest in the story began with a casual comment by a friend: "Did you know that Wyatt Earp was buried in a Jewish cemetery?" This led to a visit to said cemetery, where the name Josephine Sarah Marcus Earp was on the gravestone next to Earp's. Ms. Kirschner was fascinated and began a research project to uncover more about Josephine, the Jewish pioneer woman who became Earp's common-law wife for

nearly fifty years. Her thesis: that the showdown at the OK Corral was, in fact, due to a love triangle between Earp, a rival, and Josephine.

Ms. Kirschner's research took her to very different places this time, with a different feel to the work: smarter and more connected due to the availability in English of many historical documents and other resources on the Old West. Most of her work was done at the Magnes Collection of the University of California, Berkeley, where she found librarians who were interested and in touch with the topic who could immediately point her to useful material. Ms. Kirschner also worked with an administrator at Hills of Eternity cemetery, who helped the author track down important records concerning the cemetery plot. She worked with someone in Nome, Alaska, and did her Hollywood history research at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, where there were digitized letters leading to important information about Josephine. When she reached out, not only did Josephine's grand-nephew come forward with a rare picture of a ship named for Earp inscribed to Josephine, but Ms. Kirschner was able to see the manuscript of a hotly contested memoir written by Josephine herself. In terms of research, that resource was priceless.

Ms. Kirschner finished her presentation with a big thank-you to the library community. "You need a warm-spirited, knowledgeable person who shares your interests," she said, and she found them in the library. The opportunity for questions and comments revealed that the audience connected with Ms. Kirschner's stories and experiences, and appreciated her gratitude.

After a brief break, the second speaker, Sharon Elswit, brought her books forward. She was meant to have a presentation using her website, but due to the lack of wifi in the presentation room, Ms. Elswit went back to basics, surrounding herself with books. This was fitting, as Ms. Elswit's highlighted publication, *The Jewish Story Finder*, is a resource pointing to the physically written word, as opposed to electronic resources. Ms. Elswit's Finder is a guide to stories that are culled from collections written down in actual printed books. The key is in the indexing and in finding the "definitive version" of a story and all its many variations throughout history and different cultures.



Ms. Elswit works as a children's librarian, and her specialty is stories, specifically ones that people tell over and over, those that can be used in a classroom setting to illustrate a point a teacher is making or in a rabbi's speech, for example. She found that in terms of books on Jewish folklore, there isn't much out there. Everyone hears stories from their grandmother, grandfather, or parents, but where did these stories come from? Which ones should be included in such a collection? Which are essentially Jewish and which are not? These were all questions Ms. Elswit had to ask herself as she worked to ferret out the archetypal stories and began to compile references to them. One of her resources for the first edition of the story finder was Howard Schwartz's *Leaves from the Garden of Eden*, a collection of one hundred essential Jewish tales. This led to other resources and other collections, including out-of-print volumes that are more accessible now than they ever were before.

The process of choosing which stories to point to is a very personal one for Ms. Elswit. She said she has to actually like the stories she includes, which means no scholarly items, and nothing pointing to a footnote about a story, just where to find the story itself. Ms. Elswit includes universal tales given a Jewish spin, but not Jewish stories given a non-Jewish spin. Only stories in English or that have been translated into English make the list, and only stories that can be universally enjoyed not just by the Jewish population, but by anyone and everyone. The second edition of *The Jewish Story Finder* is twice as thick as the first due to the addition of stories from around the world and Hasidic stories.

Ms. Elswit discussed the importance of the index to all the stories and the vocabulary she had to create to facilitate access to the proper story. A story may have a theme that is not necessarily an actual word in the story, such as "community." The author had to ask herself why someone would want to tell this particular story, what context it might be able to be used in, and what words they would most likely use to find it. She used Notabene software to assist her in building this all-important guide to the guide. The vocabulary came from words the author herself would use to find a story, motifs such as

“deceit” or “kindness to animals.”

Ms. Elswit’s presentation ended with a group activity. Each group was given a few different versions of a story, a different one for each group. Our task was to examine the differences, pick a version that spoke to us, and explain how we would use it. The group atmosphere was genial, and the concluding discussion revealed many different perspectives on that very subjective topic.

A big thank you to Bruchie Weinstein and Leslie Monchar for organizing the event and encouraging the lovely atmosphere, and to Elizabeth Stabler, Librarian of Temple Emanu-El’s Stettenhim Library, for hosting the workshop.

Ms. Kirschner can be reached at <http://kirschner.org/> , and Ms. Elswit at <http://www.sharonelswit.com/>

UPCOMING NYMA PROGRAM

Save the date! The New York Metropolitan Area Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries will hold its Spring Conference on Wednesday afternoon, June 11, 2014 at The Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary, located at Broadway and 122nd Street.

Dina Herbert, Archivist at the National Archives, will speak about her work as Project Librarian for the Iraqi Jewish Archive, the collection of historic materials relating to the Iraqi Jewish community found in a flooded basement in Saddam Hussein’s intelligence headquarters in Baghdad. In addition, the team of archivists working on the Johanna Spector Archive housed at The Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary, will discuss this rich archive which includes material in the fields of ethnography, history, anthropology and music from the nearly extinct Jewish communities of India, Yemen, Azerbaijan, Egypt and Armenia, and the Samaritan people.

Please join us for this exciting program. Details to follow.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER (AJLSC)

Submitted by Ellen Cole

AJLSC is now on Facebook! “Like” us at <https://www.facebook.com/AJLSC> . You can share our outings, activities, educational programs, and opportunities. Our Facebook page joins our outstanding webpage reached via the internet under AJLSC. The home page sports our chapter logo and easily leads to many wonderful, up-to-date pages full of relevant news.

Our February meeting featured chapter member, book-seller, and appraiser, Eric Chaim Kline. Eric is an outstanding speaker. He brought us up to date on the current status of the book business and on changes in library acquisitions at the university level, where students have a much lighter reading load. Archives are now the sought after items rather than rare books. Eric shared rare gems from his personal antique book collection, and appraised the special books members brought to the meeting. On the National front, Eric has actively participated in the AJL Convention (now Conference) for decades and has funded AJL’s R&S Bibliography Award for many years.

Our May 12 general meeting was held at the Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School, where we toured its newly renovated library, shared new books, and heard a talk by new member Leslie Friedman, who heads the just-opened Southern California Office of JBI International (Formerly The Jewish Braille Institute).

We share the wonderful news that the city Board of Library Commissioners for the Los Angeles Public Library system voted to dedicate the Fairfax Branch in honor of long-time AJLSC and AJL member Grace Friedman.

AJL Wiki Update

JOYCE LEVINE, VP FOR PUBLICATIONS

Several new items have been recently been added to our wiki. Among them are:

Jewish Studies Collections in Academic Libraries: a Guide to the Library of Congress Classification Scheme. Prepared by Izabella Taler, Jewish Studies Bibliographer at Queens College Library/CUNY.

A detailed list of all relevant and currently available Library of Congress class numbers and the corresponding subject headings, it aims at assisting library professionals and library users interested in exploring Jewish Studies collections in non-sectarian academic libraries. The guide can assist collection development librarians, library liaisons, fundraising professionals and especially faculty and students, in discovering Jewish Studies sources in their college libraries. The link to this resource can be found on the [Cataloging for RAS Libraries](#) page. (Please note that this document is a 267 pages long PDF file). Thank you Izabella for allowing us to link to this very useful resource!

In addition, many of our AJL members have generously shared their lib-guides in Judaic Studies. These can be found at the [Bibliographic Instruction for RAS Libraries](#) page.

Check out these and other free resources for all kinds of Jewish libraries on our wiki. The main page is <http://www.jewishlibraries.org/main/Resources/AJLWiki.aspx>.

We encourage you to send any further contributions to: publications@jewishlibraries.org

Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award

AILEEN GROSSBERG

There will be no 2014 Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award.

Last year the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award Committee with the approval of the SSC Board made the decision to change the submission date to sync with the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee's schedule. We assumed that submissions for the 2014 award would be affected. However, despite notifications that went to our usual outlets and more, we received no appropriate submissions for the award. So, unfortunately, there will be no award this year. We hope that we will have submissions for the 2015 award and will be working with Danielle Winter in hopes of improving the Manuscript Award's visibility.

Entrees for the 2015 Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award competition are now being accepted. The deadline for submission of all entrees is September 30, 2014. For complete rules and submission forms, please go the [AJL website](#) or contact competition chair, Aileen Grossberg at stmacajl@aol.com.

AJL members, please publicize the Award through your local AJL chapters and newsletters. I'd appreciate everyone spreading the word about this competition so that we have a good selection of manuscripts to judge for the coming year.

AJL Scholarship Winners

SHULAMITH BERGER, STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

The AJL student scholarship committee is happy to announce the scholarship recipients for 2014: Marci Bayer, a student at University of Maryland, College of Information Studies; and Ilya Slavutskiy, a student at Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies.

AJL awards an annual scholarship to encourage students to train for, and enter, the field of Judaica librarianship. Candidates should show promise based on educational accomplishments achieved thus far, should have knowledge of and interest in Jewish Studies, and demonstrate the potential, ability, and intention of pursuing a career in Judaica librarianship. This year's awardees amply fulfill these qualifications.

AJL SCHOLARSHIP

The Association of Jewish Libraries is pleased to announce a scholarship of \$1000 to a student enrolled or accepted in a graduate school of library and information science.

Prospective candidates should have knowledge of and interest in Jewish Studies, and demonstrate the potential, ability and intention of pursuing a career in Judaica Librarianship.

"In order to encourage students to train for, and enter, the field of Judaica librarianship, the Association of Jewish Libraries awards a scholarship to a student attending or planning to attend a graduate school of library and information science. Prospective candidates should have an interest in, and demonstrate a potential for, pursuing a career in Judaica librarianship."

Information about the scholarships and the application form are available at: www.jewishlibraries.org

Scholarship Fund Needs Your Help

Previous winners of the AJL Scholarships for aspiring Judaica librarians have been and are still active in AJL and in the profession as a whole. We all know about the greying of our profession and the need for younger and able professionals to step up to the plate as we older ones retire or take on new challenges. The Scholarship Fund helps significantly in this regard. We offer up to two scholarships annually of \$1000 each to students in Library and Information Science programs who demonstrate an interest in entering the profession as Judaica librarians. In order to insure that we will be able to continue to offer the scholarships, we need to raise some money for the Scholarship Fund. The main way we have of raising money is through our tribute cards and through straight donations. For a donation in the amount of your choice, we can send a tribute card to the person or people you designate. It is a thoughtful way of remembering or honoring someone you care about. Just remember to include all the relevant names and addresses with your donation and card request. You can also donate for no reason at all. Please send donations and card requests to:

Sarah M. Barnard
Hebrew Union College-Klau Library,
3101 Clifton Avenue,
Cincinnati, OH 45220

AJL SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION FORM

Name of Donor:

Address of Donor:

Donation made in honor/memory of::

Name of Person(s) to receive card:

Address of Person:

Notes:

Recent Donations to the Scholarship Fund

From Merry Firschein in memory of her mother Sylvia Firschein

From Susan Dubin in honor of Peggy Pearlstein's retirement, Yaffa Weisman's wedding and in memory of Lisa Silverman's father.

From Aimee Lurie and Diane Rauchwerger in memory of Barbara Beitz's father.

Credits and Contact

Association of Jewish Libraries

P.O. Box 1118
Teaneck, NJ 07666
(201) 371-3255

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.

Editor-in-Chief

Uri Kolodney
University of Texas Libraries
The University of Texas at Austin
One University Station S5400
Austin, TX 78712-8916
generaleditor@jewishlibraries.org

Adult Review Editors

Daniel Scheide	Dr. Rebecca Jefferson
S.E. Wimberly Library	Head, Isser and Rae Price
Florida Atlantic University	Library of Judaica
777 Glades Road	539, Library West
Boca Raton, FL 33431-6424	George A. Smathers Libraries
561-297-0519	University of Florida
dascheide@gmail.com	Gainesville, FL. 32611-7010
	Phone: (352) 273-2650
	Fax: (352) 392-8118
	jefferson@ufl.edu

Please send adult books for review to D. Scheide

Children and YA Review Editors

Rachel Kamin
1054 Holly Circle
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
rachelkamin@gmail.com
and Anne Dublin
adublin@sympatico.ca

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

All links to online resources were checked for accuracy on
May 9, 2014.

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

AJL News
May/June 2014
Volume IV, No. 2
ISSN 2160-0902

Copy Editing and Page Layout

Karen Ulric
Golda Och Academy
1418 Pleasant Valley Way
West Orange, NJ 07052
ajlcopyeditor@gmail.com

Please send requests for membership and dues
information to:

AJL VP for Membership
Sheryl Stahl
Frances-Henry Library, HUC-JIR
3077 University Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90007
membership@jewishlibraries.org

Advertising:

Advertising Rates

Full page	\$200	7 1/2 x 9 1/2
Half-page (vert)	\$110	3 5/8 x 9 1/2
Half-page (horiz)	\$110	7 1/2 x 4 3/4
Quarter-page	\$55	3 5/8 x 4 3/4

Ads may include color and hyperlinks.
Dimensions are in inches

All ads must be prepaid. Please submit all
inquiries, finished copy, and checks to:

Jackie Ben-Efraim
Ostrow Library
American Jewish University
15600 Mulholland Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90077
(818) 383-9672 (cell)
ajladmanager@gmail.com