



ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER - NYMA

NEWSLETTER

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Editor : Edith Degani, Boesky Library, JTSA

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF AJL FORMED

The Association of Jewish Libraries, the national organization for Judaica libraries and librarians has been in fruitful existence for many years. It has served its members by offering them a multitude of useful, stimulating publications. In addition, its annual convention brings together librarians from all over the United States and offers them stimulating sessions together with the benefits derived from socializing with colleagues.

Regional chapters have been formed in different localities, such as New Jersey and Long Island. But there was none in New York City, despite its wide diversity of Judaica libraries. For years New York librarians had been saying that there should be a local chapter. No one, however, took the initiative of starting one until this Fall when Prof. Edith Lubetski of Stern College & Aviva Astrinsky of JTSA called together a group of librarians from day schools, special libraries, centers and seminaries and proposed starting a New York Chapter of AJL. The response was enthusiastic and plans were undertaken to implement Prof. Lubetski's suggestion.

A panel of officer was selected to get the chapter underway. They are: President, Edith Lubetski, Stern College; V.P. for Programs, Edith Degani, Jewish Theological Seminary; V.P. for Membership, Marion Stein, Solomon Schechter High School, White Plains; Treasurer, Yael Penkower, Stern College; Secretary, Aviva Astrinsky, Jewish Theological Seminary; Day Schools Coordinator, Esther Nussbaum, Rama High School; Program Coordinator, Freda Kleinburd, Manhattan Day School.

It was agreed that the goal of the new chapter was to improve cooperation among Judaica libraries of all sizes and interests and to provide a forum for discussion of mutual problems. It is hoped that this chapter will thrive and will become an important force in the New York Jewish scene.

This Newsletter brings you news of the Chapter, tells you what has been happening and alerts you to future events. Your comments will be welcome.

FIRST NYMA MEETING

"Discovering the Treasures Among Us" was the theme of the inaugural meeting of the New York Chapter (NYMA) of the AJL. The conference took place on March 20, 1985, and was hosted by the Boesky Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Close to 70 librarians came to hear their colleagues speak about the treasures in their collections. The speakers were: Ms. Cyma Horowitz, American Jewish Committee; Ms. Stephanie Stern, Leo Baeck Library; and Ms. Dina Abramowicz, Yivo. Additional presentations were made by Ms. Esther Nussbaum, Ramaz High School; Ms. Freda Kleinburd, Manhattan Day School; Dr. Marcia Posner, consultant to synagogue and center libraries; Ms. Edith Degani and Ms. Aviva Astrinsky, Jewish Theological Seminary. In her welcoming address, Prof. Lubetski expressed her joy that the idea of forming a New York Chapter had finally materialized. She thanked the speakers and the officers of NYMA for volunteering their time, and promised additional conferences in the near future. She also announced scheduled meeting of two workshops in Acquisitions and Cataloging and invited those interested to attend.

ACQUISITIONS WORKSHOP

A meeting of the Acquisitions Workshop was held at the Hedi Steinberg Library of Stern College on April 24, 1985. Aviva Astrinsky of the Jewish Theological Seminary and Helen Margalith of Touro College presented the Gifts and Exchanges policies of their libraries. Prof. Edith Lubetski discussed the gift slip used by Stern College to determine whether or not a gift would be of use to the library. Helen Margalith informed the participants about the Gifts and Exchange Program of the Library of Congress. It has duplicates which are offered without charge to libraries. Librarians, however, must do the selection in person. Shipping of the books is done, also without charge, by the U.S. Postal Service.

There was a discussion on how to promote gift exchanges among Judaica libraries in New York City. It was decided to have a Judaica duplicate book fair twice a year, once in the Fall and again in the Spring. Participating libraries would display their duplicates on special shelves and librarians would visit and select what was needed in their collections. The books would be given free or with a nominal charge, depending on the policy of the library. A letter listing the participating libraries will be distributed before the first fair. It is scheduled to be held the week of Hanukkah, December 8-13.

The next Acquisitions Workshop will take place on October 21 at 3 P.M. at the 92nd Street YMHA. The topic of the Workshop will be Collection Development Policies. Participants are asked to bring copies of their collection development policies, if available.

Cherie Feiger, Stern College Library

CATALOGING WORKSHOP

The New York Metropolitan Area Chapter of AJL held its fourth Cataloging Workshop on May 15 at Yeshiva University from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Thirty-nine librarians, representing 16 libraries participated in the discussions which dealt with specific problems in descriptive cataloging, classification, subject headings and Romanization. Copies of the agenda and minutes may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Aviva Astrinsky, Boesky Library, Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027.

The next Cataloging Workshop will be held on November 25 at 9:30 a.m. at Hebrew Union College, 1 West 4th Street, New York, N.Y. 10012.

Pearl Berger, Y.U. Libraries

CONGRATULATIONS

To Pearl Berger on her appointment as Dean of Yeshiva University Libraries.
To Edith Lubetski on becoming President of AJL.
To Aviva Astrinsky on becoming President of NYATLA (New York Area Theological Library Association).
To Bella Weinberg on her appointment to Associate Professor at St. John's University.

HEBREW WORD PROCESSORS

Do you have a Hebrew Word Processor? Are you interested in learning more about the application of Hebrew on a personal computer? Would you like to form a NYMA computer users group? Please send responses to Mrs. Aviva Astrinsky, Boesky Library, Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027, 212-678-8970.

Do you have news that you would like to share with your colleagues? Send it to Edith Degani, Boesky Library, Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027, 212-678-8093.

Do you have contributions or suggestions for future Newsletters? Send those also to Edith Degani.

NYMA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please note the dates of the following events.

- Monday, October 21, 1985 - Acquisitions Workshop at the 92nd Street Y. Library at 3:00 P.M.
Subject: Collection Development Policies
RSVP Sylvia Avner, 212-427-6000
- Wednesday, October 23, 1985 - Day School Workshop Inaugural Meeting at Manhattan Day School, 310 West 75th Street.
Subject: Collection Building
RSVP Freda Kleinburd 212-595-6800, Monday & Wednesday
Marian Stein 914-948-3111
- Thursday, November 7, 1985 - NYMA Fall Conference at the New York Public Library, 42nd Street and 5th Avenue, 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
- Monday, November 25, 1985 - Cataloging Workshop at the Hebrew Union College, 1 West 4th St., NY, NY, 10012
9:30 - 12:00.
- December 8-13, 1985 - Hanukkah Duplicate Book Fair.

HANUKKAH DUPLICATE FAIR

NYMA is sponsoring a Hanukkah Duplicate Fair. Members will be able to visit different Judaica libraries and obtain duplicates for their own collections.

A list of participating libraries will be distributed at the Fall meeting on November 7. This list will be compiled on the basis of your responses to the form below. If you have duplicates with which you are ready to part and would like to participate in this program, please fill out and send immediately to : Mrs. Sylvia Avner, Hanukkah Duplicate Fair Coordinator, 92nd Street Y. Library, 1395 Lexington Ave., New York, NY, 10028.

HANUKKAH DUPLICATE FAIR INFORMATION

Name of Library _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

Type of Duplicates available (circle as many as aplicable) :
popular, scholarly, Judaica, Hebrew literature, foreign languages,
other (specify) _____

Dates & hours available _____

Mail to : Sylvia Avner, 92nd Street Y. Library, 1395 Lexington Ave.,
New York, NY 10028.