

NEWSLETTER

Vol. II, no. 1

Fall 1986

Fall Conference on November 10

The Fourth Conference will be held in conjunction with the Jewish Heritage Book Festival on Monday, November 10, at Park East Day School's Minskoff Center at 164 East 68th Street, in Manhattan at 1 p.m.

The theme of the conference, "In celebration of Jewish books," will be explored by a panel of distinguished speakers including: Esther Cohen, editor-in-chief, Adama Books; Ruth Frank and Paula Gottlieb, former and current directors of the Jewish Book Council; Arthur Kurzweil, author and editor of the Bnai Brith Book Club; David Rosenberg, senior editor, Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich. The panel discussion will be followed by a tour of the Festival, held at the Seventh Regiment Armory at Park Avenue at 67th Street.

For further information, contact Marion Stein at (914) 948-3111, or Rita Lifton at (212) 678-8092.

National A.J.L. to meet in New York suburb next year

The annual conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries will be in Livingston, N.J. on June 21-24, 1987. Livingston is only about 20 miles from New York City, and is accessible by public transportation.

Anyone wishing to help with local arrangements (including hosting guests on ~~now~~ preceding the conference) should contact Marilyn Breitman, 38 Shrewsbury Drive, Livingston, N.J. 07039, (201) 992-8070. To facilitate planning, Mrs. Breitman wishes to know how many New Yorkers are interested in staying at the hotel where the conference will be held, and how many will commute from home. A non-binding questionnaire on projected participation in the conference was included in the mailing announcing the fall AJL-NYMA conference.

Upcoming Programs

Cataloging Workshop. The Fall 1986 Cataloging Workshop is scheduled for Monday, December 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at Yeshiva University on the topic "Cataloging procedures and card production methods." Topics discussed will include: Hebrew cataloging copy, the Hebrew catalog: contents and filing principles, cataloging workflow, and producing the bi-alphabetic catalog card. The tentative theme for the Spring workshop will be "Retrospective conversion projects and catalog quality." For further information please contact Micha Oppenheim at (212) 678-8092.

Computer Workshop. During the second week of January, 1987, a workshop will consider the use of personal computers for Hebrew text processing, and compare the alternatives open to anyone interested in using a computerized system for working with Hebrew character texts. The various systems for editing and printing Hebrew on personal computers, such as the IBM PC, Apple, etc., will be discussed. Users of various systems are invited to share their own experiences and compare the different alternatives. Examples of the systems which will be considered and compared are: Multilingual Scribe, WordMill, Mintz, FancyFont, use of a Hebrew daisy wheel, etc. People with experience with any of these or other systems are invited to share their experience. For more information, or to help with planning, call Aaron Wolfe Kuperman at (718) 854-8637 (evenings).

Notices

Reference Workshop. If anyone is interested in organizing, planning or implementing a study of patterns of use of Judaica materials, please contact Aaron Kuperman at the number listed above. The survey would attempt to determine to what extent users of small libraries (e.g. synagogues, public libraries, non-Jewish schools) are attempting research that requires a major research library, to what extent users of the research libraries could find what they are looking for at smaller libraries, and what sort of basic core collection would satisfy the bulk of users whose research goals do not require one of the leading research libraries. Presumably the people doing the research will collaborate on a scholarly article.

AJL Notice. The spring 1985 issue of *Judaica Librarianship* vol. 2, no. 1-2, has been published. Members of the Association of Jewish Libraries who didn't receive their copy should write to the Association of Jewish Libraries, c/o National Foundation for Jewish Culture, 122 E. 42nd Street, Room 1512, New York, N.Y. 10168.

SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS.

Executive Board meetings were held on May 29 (92nd Street Y), June 16 (at AJL convention in Montreal), and September 8 (HUC-JIR). In addition to planning future programs, matters discussed have included deleting people from the mailing list who neither paid \$5 to AJL-NYMA, nor attended any AJL-NYMA functions all year. [The text is cut off at the bottom of the page.]

What happened last Spring

AJL-NYMA Spring Conference.

The third NYMA conference, held on May 12 at Yeshiva University's Gottesman Library, was devoted to two topics: rare Hebrew books and German Jewry.

After greetings by Pearl Berger (Dean of Yeshiva University Libraries) Edith Lubetski, outgoing president of AJL-NYMA, presented the new executive board, gave an overview of past achievements and thanked the outgoing executive board. Aviva Astrinsky, incoming president of AJL-NYMA, discussed the challenges of the future and introduced the new executive board.

Marion Stein, conference coordinator for AJL-NYMA, introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Menahem Schmelzer, Librarian of the Boesky Library of Jewish Theological Seminary. Dr. Schmelzer spoke on the topic of "What makes a Hebrew book rare." He described the bibliographies which list rare Hebrew books and the criteria used when determining the rarity of a volume. This was a most interesting and informative lecture by a leading scholar in the field of rare Hebrew books.

The second half of the conference focused on Yeshiva University Museum's exhibit, "Aschkenaz: the German Jewish Heritage." Two members of the museum staff, Jeanette Orenstein and Bonnie Michaels, gave an overview of the exhibit after which conference participants went on to view the carefully researched and beautifully presented exhibit on Jewish life in Germany.

Cataloging Workshop.

The Ninth Cataloging workshop sponsored by AJL-NYMA was May 28 at the Boesky Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Micha Oppenheim (JTS) chaired the workshop. Presentations by Bella Weinberg (YIVO), Ricky Dreyfuss (YU), Shaindy Kurzman (JTS), Tzivia Atik (JTS), Rita Lifton (JTS), and Linda Aschkenasy (JTS) clarified the reasons for "in house" modifications and expansion of LC classification and subject heading practice in the areas of Yiddish, Tanakh, Mishnah, Talmud, Holocaust and Zionism, as well as modifications and manipulations of OCLC records to allow for "in-house" access points and the inputting of special Hebrew materials. Leah Adler (YU) reported on highlights of Israeli libraries and Bella Weinberg (YIVO) presented an RLIN update report.

Reference Workshop.

The Reference Workshop meeting, on February 27 at HUC-JIR, discussed "Doing Research on Jewish Genealogy." Rabbi Malcolm Stern, a leading expert on Jewish genealogy, discussed the overall problems of Jewish genealogical research, as well as several recent developments. Aaron Kuperman chaired the program.

Day School Workshop.

"How to encourage Hebrew reading" was the topic at the Day School Workshop, held April 3 at the Yeshiva of Flatbush in Brooklyn. Esther Nussbaum (Ramaz High School) was chair. Aviva Lapide, Librarian of Yeshiva of Flatbush, presented a most interesting and informative description of the program used at her school.

Jewish Librarians' Caucus.

The Jewish Librarians' Caucus, now part of A.L.A.'s Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT), participated in a program on Black-Jewish relations, and held a business meeting at the American Library Association's annual conference in New York City on June 30. Among matters discussed were the possibility of a New York area telephone hook-up to next year's meeting in San Francisco, discrimination against Sabbath observers, and the distinct interests of AJL and the Jewish Librarians' Caucus.

CALENDAR - לוח

all dates subject to change

November 10, 1986	Fall Conference (see first page for details)
November 18, 1986	Executive Board Meeting
December 1, 1986	Cataloging Workshop
December 26, 1986	תשכ"ו
January 12, 1987	Computer Workshop
March 15, 1987	תשכ"ז
March 17, 1987	Day School Workshop
April 13, 1987	תשכ"ז
Early May	Spring Conference
Late Spring	Cataloging Workshop
June 21-24, 1987	National A.J.L. Conference

Officers and Members of the Executive Board

President	Aviva Astrinsky, Boesky Library (J.T.S.)
Vice-President	Esther Nussbaum, Ramaz Upper School Library
Past-President	Edith Lubetski, Stern College Library
Recording Secretary	Phyllis Holman Weisbard, N.Y.U. School of Law Library
Corresponding Secretary	Marlene Schiffman, Klau Library (HUC-JIR)
Treasurer	Yael Penkower, YIVO
Coordinators:	
Conferences	Marion Stein, Solomon Schechter School (Westchester)
Synagogue Workshop	Salome Corey, Temple Emanuel-El (New York)
Day School Workshop	Susan Winter Young, Temple Beth Shalom (Roslyn Heights)
Reference Workshop	Eileen Schmidman, Ramaz Lower School Library
Cataloging Workshop	Aaron Wolfe Kuperman, Brooklyn Public Library
Publicity	Micha Oppenheim, Boesky Library (J.T.S.)
Newsletter Editor	Rita Lifton, Boesky Library (J.T.S.)
	Aaron Wolfe Kuperman, Brooklyn Public Library