

Association of Jewish Libraries
New York Metropolitan Area Chapter--NYMA

NEWSLETTER

Vol. III no. 1

Spring 1988

SPRING CONFERENCE-- APRIL 26, 1988

The Spring Conference will be held in on Tuesday, April 26 at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1 West 4th Street, New York, NY 10012. at 1:00 pm.

The Conference will focus on automated systems for small libraries. A representative from Follett will speak about and demonstrate their systems including CIRCULATION PLUS.

Registration for the conference is \$5.00 for AJL members and \$7.00 for non-AJL members. For further information contact Marion Stein at (914) 948-3111.

AJL-NYMA EXECUTIVE BOARD CHANGES

As the two-year cycle of board participation comes to a close we have a number of changes on our Executive Board:

Aviva Astrinsky is resigning after her two-year stint as President of the NYMA Executive Board. Thank you Aviva!

Esther Nussbaum is taking the reign and moving from the President-Elect position to President of the NYMA Executive Board. Good Luck Esther!

Marion Stein is our new President-Elect.

Edith Lubetski has agreed to remain in the Past-President slot for an additional two years.

Yael Penkower has resigned as treasurer after four years of service. Thank you Yael!

Sylvia Avner has been appointed our new treasurer.

CONTRIBUTION

Marion Stein has donated \$180 to the AJL-NYMA in memory of her late father. We all thank Marion for this most generous contribution.

ATTENTION DAY SCHOOL LIBRARIANS:

A Book List of new Children's Books in Hebrew, with suggestions from Dr. Marcia Posner, is being prepared for ALA by Eileen Schmidman. Please contact her for additional information and/or recommendations.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Aviva Astrinsky has been appointed Director of the Library at the Annenberg Research Institute in Philadelphia. We all wish her good luck!
The 1988-89 executive board of AJL will have five NYMA members: Marcia Posner, president; Edith Lubetski, past-president; Linda Lerman, president-elect; Esther Nussbaum, recording secretary; and Tzivia Atik, corresponding secretary.

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMS

KANSAS CITY-- NATIONAL AJL

Brochures have gone out for the National AJL Conference to be held from June 19 to 22 in Kansas City, Missouri. We hope that there will be a large NYMA contingent there. If you have not received your brochure contact the AJL office.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY PROGRAM:

On Sunday, March 20th at 2:00 pm, Yeshiva University Library will be sponsoring a symposium entitled "Learning and Studying: A symposium celebrating the publication of The Men and Women of Yeshiva: Higher Education, Orthodoxy and American Judaism by Jeffrey S. Gurock". The event will take place at Belfer Hall Commons, 2495 Amsterdam Avenue at West 184th Street. RSVP to 960-5363.

CATALOGING WORKSHOP:

On Tuesday, May 17th the Spring Cataloging Workshop will take place at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 1048 Fifth Avenue (at 86th Street) in conjunction with the joint exhibit at YIVO and the Jewish Museum entitled " A Century of Ambivalence: The Jews of Russia and the Soviet Union, 1881 to the Present". The topic of Hebrew cataloging will be explored by various speakers, among them Rosalie Katchen of Brandeis University. All NYMA members are urged to submit questions and problems in advance to the Workshop Coordinators: Tzivia Atik at JTS (678-8092), Shulamith Berger or Rebecca Dassa both at YU (960-5378). The workshop will be held from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Submitted by Tzivia Atik.

RECENT MEETINGS:

DAY SCHOOL LIBRARIANS: On March 15, day school librarians from New York and New Jersey participated in a workshop held at Baker and Taylor's Eastern Distribution Center, located in Somerville, New Jersey.

Marilyn Robinson, Government Contracts Sales Representative, the group's host for the day, opened the workshop with a brief description of Baker and Taylor. Baker and Taylor is a major book wholesaler, distributing books and videocassettes to schools, libraries and bookstores in the United States as well as to American concerns and foreign governments overseas. In the area of Judaica, they carry publishers such as the Jewish Publication Society, Ktav, and Mesorah. Books currently may be ordered by mail or by phone, but it will soon be possible to order items by computer through Baker and Taylor's new ACQUIRE system. Following these remarks, Ms. Robinson led the group on a tour of the offices and the warehouse.

The workshop concluded with a discussion of grants and programs available to day school librarians through federal, state and city government and through private

organizations. Among the programs mentioned were the New York State Library Fund (NYSLIB), Chapter II, and Agudath Israel's Mini-Libraries. Anyone wishing further information about these and other programs should contact Susan Young at Bais Yaakov of Queens - (718) 847-5352.

Submitted by Rita Lifton

SYNAGOGUE LIBRARIANS MEETING The first NYMA Synagogue Librarians Workshop met on February 7, a Sunday, from 1 pm at Temple Emanu-el. Organized for Planning, we discussed current projects and foreseeable options. The questions toward allocating the resources of scarce time were especially urgent for volunteers in their synagogue's library, or those employed only several hours a week. Smaller libraries seeking to become active talk of establishing priorities with difficult choices, and often without prior experience in creating and maintaining a synagogue library. The work of applying library skills and of basic training for non-professionals in synagogues was discussed. The group decided to begin meeting in member synagogue libraries for cooperative ideas. You are invited to join us next at Brotherhood Synagogue, 28 Gramercy Park South, Sunday, April 24th, 1-3 pm.

Submitted by Salome Cory

CATALOGER'S WORKSHOP--DECEMBER 1987-- The NYMA semi-annual Cataloguing Workshop was held at the Jewish THEological Seminary of Tuesday, December 15th, 1987. The thirty-three people who attended heard reports on CARLJS by Pearl Berger and on the RLIN Hebrew project by Bella Weinberg. Featured at this meeting was a guest speaker, Raisel Borowsky, president of MRB Software Systems, a Hebrew-English cataloging and card production program for IBM-PC. The program is known as Judaicard. The coordinators of the workshop are Tzivia Atik, Shulamith Berger and Rebecca Dassa.

Submitted by Tzivia Atik

HARVARD CONFERENCE

On May 2 and 3 Harvard College Library Judaica Department will be holding an invitational conference entitled Judaica Librarianship: Facing the Future. Many NYMA members have been invited to attend and to present papers on this occasion. The Proceedings of the conference will be published in a future issue of Judaica Librarianship.

AJL ---ISRAEL ---- 1990

Plans for the AJL conference in Israel in 1990 are developing. It has been expanded to become the First International Conference on Judaica Librarianship. If you are interested in working on the planning of the conference please contact Edith Lubetski at Stern College.

NYMA PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1986-88

As I am about to conclude my two years as NYMA Chapter President, which happens to coincide with my relocation to Philadelphia, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to all the members of NYMA Executive Board. It has been a pleasure working with you, because you are collegial, creative, cooperative and dedicated. I certainly hope to keep in close touch as I move one hundred miles south.

This is a good opportunity to present a summary of the Chapter's activities in the past two years, which will remind us of all the wonderful programs we have attended. These programs enhanced our development as librarians, and contributed to raising the standards of Judaica librarianship. NYMA provides a framework for the exchange of ideas and information, especially for the solo librarians in small libraries. I hope you will continue to support us and get even more involved in our future activities.

CONFERENCES:

- Fall 1986 - In Celebration with Jewish Books (in conjunction with the 1st Judaica Book Fair)
- Spring 1987 - Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts in the Collection of the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.
- Fall 1987 - The Jewish Publication Society of America - 100 years old.
- Spring 1988 - Circulation Plus and Catalog Plus - Inexpensive automation for the library.

WORKSHOPS:

Four Cataloging workshops were planned and presented by the Chapter, including one at the 1987 National AJL Conference in Livingston, N.J. Two Day-School programs were organized, and two meetings of Synagogue Librarians.

NEWSLETTER:

The Chapter published four issues of its Newsletter, edited in 1986/87 by Aaron Kuperman, and in 1987/88 by Naomi Steinberger.

Yours sincerely,

Aviva Astrinsky
1986-1988 NYMA President