

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER

SPRING 1989

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Spring Conference May 25, 1989

The Spring Conference of the AJL/NYMA Chapter will be held at the National Jewish Archives of Broadcasting of the Jewish Museum on May 25th, 1989, 1-5 pm.



Margo Blum, Archive Director, will present a session on how the materials are collected, catalogued and stored. We will also have the opportunity to view films from the collection. In addition to the archival/audio visual portion of the conference, there will be a personally guided tour of the Jewish Museum's exhibits "In the Shadow of Conflict: Artists in Israel 1980-1989" and "Memories of Alsace: Folk Art and the Jewish Tradition".

Invitations to the conference will be sent shortly before Pesach. Registration for the conference is \$8.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members. For further information contact Marion Stein, conference coordinator, at 914-948-3111.

National AJL Meeting

Washington, DC June 18-21, 1989

The 24th Annual Convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries will take place at the Quality Inn Capitol Hill. Programming for the conference is set and has been mailed with the National AJL Spring Newsletter. It will include, in addition to the regular SSC and R & S sessions, a reception at the Israeli Embassy and a special behind the scene tour at the Library of Congress.

Quality Inn Capitol Hill room rates are: \$80 for a single room and \$95 for a double room, per day. The hotel has indicated that it will hold room reservations only until May 15th. The conference registration fee (\$170) will include breakfasts, 2 kosher dinners and all transportation arrangements during the conference. Immediate sign up once the complete conference information arrives is imperative.

For first time AJL Conference attendees, a new buddy system is planned to match old timers with newcomers to help them integrate and learn the ins and outs of the AJL Conference.

Jerusalem, Israel July 2-6, 1990

Planning is under way for the First International Conference of Israeli and Judaica Librarians, to be held in Jerusalem in July 1990. The conference will take place at the

Ramada Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem. Programming will be held simultaneously for the AJL's SSC and R&S divisions, ISLIC (Israeli Academic and Special Librarian) and ASSI (Israeli Public, School and Community Librarians). Some sessions will be held jointly while others will be held separately. World renowned scholars in Judaica Librarianship will be presenting papers.

The Israel 1990 Committee is working full force to settle program arrangements with speakers, reach out to our colleagues in Europe (Eastern and Western), Australia, South Africa and South America enlisting their participation. Plans for simultaneous translations, conference proceedings, tours to Israeli libraries, general tours of Israel, foundation and corporate funding, exhibitions and group travel rates are all being worked on.

Start making your arrangements to attend this conference as it certainly will be one you wouldn't want to miss. More details will be forthcoming in the next few months.

Current Exhibits in the New York Area

The Pierpoint Morgan Library is currently holding an exhibit of Judaica from the Valmadonna Trust, a private collection in London, which will run until May 7th. The 50 manuscripts and early printed Hebraica reflects the richness of this collection which concentrated originally on Hebrew incunabula. Each volume is unique in its own way. Two examples especially caught my eye: a Pentateuch in Hebrew and Aramaic with commentary by Rashi of Troyes printed on vellum from Hajar, Spain, 1492, is the last clearly dated Hebrew book known to have been printed before the expulsion of the Jews. The second example is a manuscript of the Pentateuch on vellum from 1189 with the Targum. Although incomplete, it is the oldest dated manuscript of the Targum. It is also the only dated Hebrew manuscript written in Norman England.

The exhibit is well described in the catalog Hebraica from the Valmadonna Trust by Brad Sabin Hill.

Submitted by Yael Penkower

The Hebrew Home for the Aged in Riverdale is presenting an exhibit Treasures From the Community. This is a small exhibit of Judaica items of personal value, each with a story, which have been collected by the Museum. The exhibit runs from April 9th until November 26th.

Workshop and Fall Conference Reports

FALL CONFERENCE

The NYMA Fall Conference was held on October 20, 1988 at the New York Public Library in conjunction with two exhibitions; *A Sign and a Witness: 2000 Years of Hebrew Books and Illuminated Manuscripts* and *A Visual Testimony: Judaica from the Vatican*. Leonard Gold, chief librarian of the Jewish Division, was curator of the exhibition and Philip Miller, Head Librarian of HUC-JIR in New York, was curator of the Vatican Exhibit. Phil Miller also guided the group through the exhibit which was an added treat.

Submitted by Esther Nussbaum

NYMA FALL 1988 CATALOGING WORKSHOP

The NYMA Fall Cataloging Workshop was held at Temple Emanu-El on November 15, 1988. The session opened by an RLIN update by Bella Weinberg of YIVO. Most of the workshop consisted of a cataloging clinic. The resource people were Leah Adler (Yeshiva University), Rosalie Katchen (Brandeis University), Micha Oppenheim (Jewish Theological Seminary) and Bella Weinberg. Topics discussed were liturgy, romanized Hebrew records, expansion of the PJ schedule, minimal cataloging and cataloging of non-book materials. The next workshop will be at the AJL Conference in June, to be held in Washington, DC.

Submitted by Tzivia Atik, Workshop Coordinator

REFERENCE WORKSHOP

Jewish Reference: Past and Present was the topic of the NYMA workshop held on January 10, 1989 at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Some 50 librarians from all types of libraries--private, school, academic--attended.

Since this was the first workshop of this kind, a general overview of the wealth of material was given. In the future, we plan to deal in more detail with specific fields. As the workshop was for librarians, handouts of catalog cards, to identify the books discussed, were distributed, rather than a photocopy of the title page or a bibliographical list.

I would like to correct one mistake I made. Volume 2 of the Union Catalog of Hebrew Manuscripts and Their Location which is the photocopy of the cards of Aaron Freimann's monumental work, was done by Freimann's collating printed bibliographies - and not necessarily on the basis of actual seeing and holding all these manuscripts.

Submitted by Yael Penkower, Workshop Coordinator

DAY SCHOOL WORKSHOP

On March 16, 1989, eighteen librarians converged on the Solomon Schechter School of White Plains for a NYMA Day School Conference. Host Librarian Marion Stein graciously greeted us.

Linda Reis of the Reuben Gittelman Hebrew Day School presented two programs which have been very successful in her school. "Parents as Partners" strongly encourages parents to become completely involved in their children's reading. Starting with a full evening program of parents and children, with food, speakers, handouts, costumes, etc. and then culminating in a final gathering of parents and children a month later, the program was enthusiastically received and very successful. Linda's second presentation was a computer based reading incentive program called Book Brain. The child, working with Book Brain, answers a series of questions that will help find out his or her own interests and reading levels, and then find a book he or she would enjoy. Our second presenter, Cynthia Hertz, from SAR Riverdale Academy, renewed our interest in a machine we all were taught to use in library or teacher related classes. The overhead projector is an easily accessible and easy to use machine for library and teaching lessons. Cynthia showed us how she used the overhead projector with overlay of colors in the culmination of a storytelling project. Finally, Marion Stein of the Solomon Schechter of White Plains

shared with us her wonderful program on storytelling. She explained her methods, useful books, tips on storytelling to share with the children and then the piece de resistance, Marion invited two of the fourth graders to tell us a story. This was certainly a wonderful finale to a most rewarding meeting.

Submitted by Eileen Shmidman, Workshop Coordinator

SYNAGOGUE WORKSHOP

The synagogue librarians held an enthusiastic workshop with Dr. Marcia Posner on January 8 at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue Rabbi Edward E. Klein Memorial Library. The Sunday afternoon was devoted to programming for synagogue libraries, attracting members by identifying interests and planning to fit their needs. Dr. Posner stressed the importance of interaction to draw on sources of expertise. Her ideas included activating telephone squads, press releases and invitations to the community and some showbiz and outreach. Hospitality, an influential library committee, the creation of bibliographies for adult education, constant enthusiasm and an ongoing awareness of trends and currency of topics and concerns, featuring of book and author events and the timeliness of periodical features are all needed. Participants contributed ideas and plans based on experiences in their own libraries which resulted in lively discussion, with much gratitude to Dr. Posner.

Submitted by Salome Cory, Workshop Coordinator

Editorial Page

From the Editor

As of this issue we are beginning two new columns: *From the Editor* will relay information regarding the NYMA Chapter and its' members. *To the Editor* for NYMA members to express their views on issues, conferences, workshops and activities. Please feel free to submit your letters to the editor to: Naomi Steinberger, Jewish Theological Seminary Library, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027.

A **policy statement** regarding membership in the NYMA Chapter of AJL. No membership dues are paid to NYMA. One can become a member of the NYMA Chapter by joining National AJL and living in the New York Area or by submitting your name and address to our membership coordinator, Marlene Schiffman, HUC-JIR, 1 West 4th Street, New York, NY 10012. In order to pay for mailings, conferences, workshops and this newsletter, we charge admission fees for each event to cover our expenses.

Errata: In the Fall 1988 newsletter the name of our chapter treasurer, Sylvia Avner, was incorrectly noted. Apologies!

NYMA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS:

Eileen Shmidman's List of Hebrew Books appeared in the November issues of Booklist.

Marlene Shiffman's review of the NYPL exhibit appeared in the Long Island Jewish World

Bella Hass Weinberg chaired the session on "Fifty Years of the Yivo Library" on October 16th. Zachary Baker and Dina Abramowicz, present and past Head Librarians of YIVO participated.

Rena Borow co-authored the Yiddish musical "Songs of Paradise" which is running into its third month at the Public Theatre.

NEW APPOINTMENTS:

Moshe Kramer joined the staff of the Jewish Theological Seminary Library as Administrative Librarian for Technical Services.

To the Editor:

Dear Editor:

I thoroughly enjoyed the AJL Fall Conference at the New York Public Library, Jewish Division. The Program was informative and inspirational. Drs. Gold and Miller were both fascinating speakers who brought their exhibitions to life.

As a result of this fine program I was motivated to return several times to view "A Sign and a Witness". I also had the pleasure of escorting the Middle School students at the Heschel School. Many of them were awestruck by what they saw there.

I look forward to attending more exhilarating programs such as this in the future.

Beth Anshen Braunstein, Librarian, Abraham Joshua Heschel School