

# ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES

## NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER

FALL 1989

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### Fall Conference October 25, 1989



The Fall Conference of the AJL/NYMA Chapter will be held at the Park Avenue Synagogue and at the YIVO Institute on Wednesday, October 25th, 1989, 1-4 pm.

The program will have three parts:

Reception and Business Meeting: Meet at the Park Avenue Synagogue, 50 East 87th Street (at Madison Avenue). There will be time to get together, meet and review NYMA Business.

Speakers: Mr. Samuel Norich, Executive Director of the YIVO Institute, will speak on negotiating with the Polish Government to acquire the Vilna YIVO Archives. These negotiations took place during March of 1989.

Ms. Suki Sandler, Director of the American Jewish Committee Oral History Library project will speak on creating an oral history.

Tour: After a short walk to the YIVO Institute at 86th Steet and Fifth Avenue, Jeff Shandler, will give conference participants a guided tour of the current YIVO exhibition: *Going Home: How American Jews Invent the Old World*. Mr. Shandler is the curator for this show.

Registration for the conference is \$6.00 for members and \$8.00 for non-members. For further information contact Marion Stein, conference coordinator, at 212-678-8836

### Fall Cataloging Workshop, November 20, 1989

The annual Fall Cataloging Workshop will take place on Monday, November 20th, 1989 9:30 am - 12:30 pm. The workshop will be at Temple Emanuel, Fifth Avenue at 65th Street. The program will deal with "Trends in Jewish Music" and "Hebrew Cataloging on RLIN". For further information please contact Tzivia Atik at 212-678-8092.

### Spring Conference, May 24, 1990

Plans for the Spring Conference have begun to take place. The date and place have been confirmed. We will meet at the Birnbaum Music Library of the Hebrew Arts School, 129 West 67th Street on Thursday, May 24th. The program includes the presentation of "The Eastern European Connection" by Dr. Kenneth Libo. More information regarding this Conference will be forthcoming.

# FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ISRAELI AND JUDAICA LIBRARIANS

Jerusalem, Israel July 2-6, 1990

SAVE THE DATE!! The preliminary brochure is out. Plans are set. This is a unique conference, a unique opportunity to visit Israel with other Judaica Librarians, opportunity to meet our Israeli counterparts. We will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Association of Jewish Libraries. The planning committee is working hard both in the United States and Israel to make this a first and a most rewarding conference. 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 and will be devoted to all aspects of Jewish scholarship and librarianship. Presenters will include scholars of international repute and participants are expected from all corners of the globe as well as from the United States and Israel.

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. For further information contact Edith Lubetski 212-340-7720.

## Current Exhibits in the New York Area

The Jewish Museum recently opened an exhibit "Gardens and Ghettos: The Art of Jewish Life in Italy". This is a comprehensive exhibit depicting Italian Jewry's rich artistic legacy in the visual arts, performing arts and literature. The show will be running through February 1st and should not be missed.

An exhibition "The Crown of All Wisdom: Hebrew Printing in Italy from the Fifteenth to the Eighteenth Centuries" opens at The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America on November 28th, 1989. The exhibition contains over 60 items including Bibles, liturgical works, editions of the Talmud, and books on philosophy, kabbalah, literature and science. In addition, broadsides containing special prayers written for special communities in the times of distress as well as poems and riddles written for weddings, will be shown. Among the outstanding items on display will be examples of the earliest works printed in Hebrew, including the first illustrated Hebrew book, as well as many exceptionally rare works printed on vellum and blue paper. Group tours will be available beginning in December. For further information call Evelyn Cohen 212-678-8975.

## **AJL CONFERENCE REPORT--AJL GOES TO WASHINGTON**

On Father's Day, 1989 AJL members and their guests arrived on Capitol Hill. It was a perfect day to begin what was to be one of our finest annual conventions. The organizers, the Washington, DC AJL chapter turned the town upside-down in order not to miss a single point of interest to Judaica librarians in and around our nation's capitol. They succeeded but we will concentrate here on the highlight of the convention; our visit to the Library of Congress.

It was a good feeling to be at the LC and to be treated like honored guests. We were welcomed like dignitaries and given in depth tours of many areas of the Library. The Judaica collection is an important part of our national library but the overwhelming feeling that one takes away is the universal scope of the collections. But it was important to note that even there, due to the information explosion in the last decades, they can no longer collect everything. This impressed on us the vital importance of cooperation among libraries worldwide.

After a full day of programs including a particularly interesting session on preservation where we were able to see on slides the whole process of restoration used on the Washington Haggadah, we returned in the evening for a reception. After that, we were treated to a talk by Rabbi Abraham Karp who spoke most eloquently about the beginnings of the Judaica/Hebraica at LC. We all left the hall feeling very proud indeed to be heirs to the great traditions represented in that collection and even more to be Jews in America. It was a truly thrilling moment we shall all remember.

## **EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

The Friends of The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary report two forthcoming events. NYMA members are welcome to attend.

December 11, 1989                Bloch Quartet performing a Concert of Jewish Music  
                                                Feinberg Auditorium, 8 pm

March 7th, 1990                Dr. Menahem Schmelzer Lecture: "Hebrew Printing in Italy:  
                                                Religion, Culture and Economics"  
                                                Feinberg Auditorium, 8 pm

## **A MESSAGE FROM ESTHER NUSSBAUM, PRESIDENT AJL-NYMA 1988-1990**

At the last AJL national convention in Washington, D.C. (June 1989), our dynamic president, Marcia Posner, focused considerable attention on chapter relations. She urged that National AJL make extreme effort to encourage the formation of local chapters and to help stimulate professional activities. For those chapters already functioning, the discussion centered on how to make members realize the importance of membership in national AJL. Marcia Posner averred that local members who do not belong to national AJL are not really functioning well as librarians. They learn about library matters only when people who are members of AJL bring them the information.

Several new activities were approved for AJL pursue. Jean Lettofsky, librarian of the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies, is Chapter Relations coordinator. She is in charge of putting the program into operation.

How does this relate to AJL-NYMA?

We are not a dues paying local chapter and we have not kept a record of who-on our mailing list-is a member of national AJL. We try to encourage membership in national by a fee structure for our programs which offers a discount for members.

Our twice-yearly conferences and our many workshops have been and hopefully, will continue to be, on a very high level; we should be able to convince our colleagues that membership in national is a very important affiliation.

My own professional training at Columbia emphasized that librarians should be information specialists and service-oriented. No matter what a person's particular work assignment, he or she should consider every aspect of the profession relevant. A librarian should be informed of aspects of print and non-print media, computer applications, and, in the Jewish area, history, contemporary issues, etc.

Since our inception just a brief six years ago, our conferences and workshops are planned to keep the librarians/educators of NYMA informed of the resources and developments in all areas of Jewish Librarianship. PLEASE BE COMMITTED TO ATTEND.

A good year to all.

Esther Nussbaum, President AJL\_NYMA 1988-1990

## Editorial Box

### NEW APPOINTMENTS:

The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of American reports the following additions to their professional staff: Roger Kohn - archivist, Clifford Miller - Rabbinics cataloger, Judith Rosensveig - cataloger Jay Rovner - Manuscript Bibliographer, and Marion Stein - music librarian.

### SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board met on September 15th at the Jewish Theological Seminary Library. Planning of future events and setting the 1989-90 calendar were discussed. A motion was passed to permit the purchase of the NYMA mailing list to members and their organizations. A fee of \$25.00 for one time use of the list or a yearly subscription to the list, at \$50.00 per academic year are available. Please contact Naomi Steinberger at 212-678-8982 for lists.

## CALENDAR

October 25, 1989	Fall Conference
November 20, 1989	Fall Catalogers Workshop
February 6, 1990	Reference Workshop
March 22, 1990	Day School Workshop
April 29, 1990	Synagogue Workshop
May 24, 1989	Spring Conference
July 2-5, 1990	First International Conference of Israeli and Judaica Librarians, Jerusalem, Israel

## NYMA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Atik, Tzivia	Cataloging Workshop Coordinator
Avner, Sylvia	Treasurer
Berger, Shulamith	Cataloging Workshop Coordinator
Cory, Salome	Recording Secretary Synagogue Coordinator
Dassa, Rebecca	Cataloging Workshop Coordinator
Lifton, Rita	Publicity Coordinator
Lubetski, Edith	Past President
Nussbaum, Esther	President
Penkower, Yael	Reference Workshop Coordinator
Shmidman, Eilene	Day School Coordinator
Stein, Marion	Vice President Conference Coordinator
Steinberger, Naomi	Newsletter Editor Membership Coordinator