

# ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES

## NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER

SPRING 1990

VOL. 5, NO. 2

### **Spring Conference May 24, 1990**

The Spring Conference of the AJL/NYMA Chapter will take place at the Birnbaum Music Library at the Hebrew Arts School, 129 West 67th Street on Thursday, May 24th, 1990 from 12:15 - 3:30 pm.



Lee Floersheimer, Librarian of the Birnbaum Music Library, will greet the group and show us around the Library. Kenneth Libo, curator of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Philadelphia, will present a talk entitled "American Jewish Archives - Off the Beaten Path". The program will continue with a musical potpourri entitled "From the Shtetl to Second Avenue". There will be refreshments and a bring your own dairy lunch between the lecture and the concert. This promises to be a most delightful afternoon.

Invitations to the conference are in the mail. Registration for the conference is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for non-members. For further information contact Marion Stein, Conference Coordinator, at 212-678-8836.

**AJL 25th Anniversary                      Jerusalem, Israel**

**July 2 - 5, 1990**

### **First International Conference of Israeli and Judaica Librarians**

Jerusalem is the location for the First International Conference of Israeli and Judaica Librarians which coincides with the celebration of the AJL's 25th Anniversary. The conference is taking place July 2nd - 5th, 1990. Registration brochures have been sent and the program promises to provide stimulating sessions for all participants. The sessions, which will be simultaneously translated, are geared for ALL librarians. Special libraries, research libraries, public, school, community and synagogue libraries will all be represented. Parallel sessions in each area will make it extremely difficult to decide what to go to when.

Registration fee for the conference is \$225. This includes two dinners, three lunches, receptions, lectures and exhibits. Hotel accommodations at the Ramada Renaissance in Jerusalem is \$50 per night. Rooms at other nearby three and four star hotels are also available. Tours of Israel, with stops at many libraries and archives will take place both before and after the conference.

Air fares packages are available. Funding to help support your trip may be available through your local Federation or your organization may have an untapped travel budget.

Don't let this opportunity pass. This conference promises to be a most memorable event. If you haven't received a registration package please contact: Tzivia Atik, AJL Corresponding Secretary, at 212-678-8092.

### **Current Exhibits in the New York Area**

The Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America has extended its exhibit entitled *The Crown of All Wisdom: Hebrew Printing in Italy from the 15th - 18th Centuries* until the end of June. Tours of the exhibition are available by contacting Evelyn Cohen, Curator of Jewish Art, 212-678-8975.

The Yeshiva University Museum is currently exhibiting *Paintings from the Book of Psalms*. The exhibit will run through June.

An exhibit at Hebrew Union College entitled *Blacks and Jews: The American Experience 1654-1989* will run through August 17th.

### **Workshop and Fall Conference Reports**

#### **FALL CONFERENCE**

The NYMA Fall Conference was held on October 25, 1989 at the Park Avenue Synagogue and at the YIVO Institute. The program was divided into two segments. It began with lectures, one by Samuel Norich, Executive Director of YIVO on the negotiation with the Polish government to acquire the Vilna YIVO Archives. He enlightened us with tales from his trip to Vilna including his meetings with the Polish Government. The second lecture was given by Mimi Alperin of the William E. Wiener Oral History Library of the American Jewish Committee. She spoke about the creation of an oral history archive. Her lecture inspired many to think about ways oral histories could be created within each librarian's institution. The second half of the program was a visit to the YIVO Institute to view the exhibit "Going Home: How American Jews invented the Old World." This was a most charming exhibit, primarily photography, guided by Jeff Shandler, curator of the show. There was also an excellent demonstration of the photography

database with laser disk which was developed for the YIVO photo archives.

#### CATALOGERS WORKSHOP

NYMA's Fall Cataloging Workshop took place on November 20th, 1989 at Temple Emanu-El. Tzivia Atik (JTS) and Shulamith Berger (YU) organized the event.

The first part of the program was devoted to Jewish Music resources. Lee Floersheimer (Hebrew Arts School), Marcia Goldberg (Gratz College), Chana Mlotek (YIVO) and Marion Stein (JTS) described their respective institution's holdings. This was followed by a Cataloging Clinic chaired by Dr. Bella Haas Weinberg (St. John's University). The final part of the program dealt with Hebraica cataloging and workflow on RLIN. Leah Adler (YU) and Paula Charry (NYPL) presented an interesting contrast in the way two libraries integrate Hebraica cataloging into their automated workflow.

#### REFERENCE WORKSHOP

The annual Reference Workshop, held at JTS on February 13th, 1990, was a particular treat this year. It focussed on automation in the Judaica library. Noreen Wachs (Ramaz) described the success she is having using the Judaicard program for the production of Hebrew cards. This was followed by a talk by Elhanan Adler (Haifa University) about the ALEPH network in Israel. He described the workings of the shared resources system set up by the academic libraries in Israel. His presentation was followed by a lecture by Yael Penkower (JTS) on "Judaica and Computers". She reviewed the commercial databases available through DIALOG Information Systems where one can locate information on Judaica. The meeting was extremely well attended and equally successful in its content.

#### DAY SCHOOL AND SYNAGOGUE WORKSHOP

The Day School and Synagogue Librarians Workshop held on March 29th, 1990, at the SAR Academy in Riverdale focused on "Computerizing the 'Small' Library and Networking Possibilities" Linda Reiss, librarian at the Reuben Gittleman Day School in Spring Valley, encouraged networking to share books, periodicals and electronic communications to maximize services and use of materials. Annette Landau, librarian of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York, spoke of choosing, installing and subsequent experience with Datatrek, the Elazar classification system and the Central Cataloging Service for Libraries of Judaica of Sinai Temple Library in Los Angeles. Bill Payne, representing Bibliofile, in conjunction with Cynthia Hertz of SAR demonstrated the products and modules available in automation, beginning specifically with recon and adding new records concurrently.

Phyllis Fisher, Director of the New York City School Library System of the Board of Education, brought ample envelopes of descriptive information for resources available to member libraries, such as location and then interlibrary loan with delivery to the school, MILCS, the Learning Link, METRO, and used a Macintosh with a modem to make the presentation of sharing possibilities. Among the participants there was much informal exchange of ideas and experiences, and the approximately two dozen attendees have since received a list of addresses and phone numbers to continue the discussions of that morning.

## FROM THE EDITOR:

Congratulations to NYMA member Phyllis Holman Weisbard and to David Schonberg on the publication of their book *Jewish Law: Bibliography of Sources and Scholarship in English*. This new bibliography should serve as an invaluable tool for the English speaking community studying Jewish Law.

The Jewish Book Awards will take place on June 11th. For further information call the Jewish Book Council of the Jewish Welfare Board.

A new English language version of a large database on Israel will be demonstrated in New York at the end of May by Yaacov Fisher, former economist for the Bank of Israel. The database is a portable version ready for use on an IBM-PC or compatible. For more information contact Randy Herschaft at 212-268-1690.

June 10th-12th are the dates of the forthcoming conference entitled **Gender and Text: Feminist Criticism and Modern Jewish Literature**. The conference will take place at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. It will be an international gathering of scholars and authors to explore the role of women in Hebrew and Yiddish literature and film. This conference will bring the new insight of current feminist criticism to modern Jewish texts. It will examine the works of women writers, their themes and styles, the psychodynamics of female creativity and the process of forming the literary canon. It will also address issues involved in analyzing literature written by men, focusing particularly on stereotyping, omissions and misperceptions of female characters in major works of literature. For further information contact Ms. Renee Gutman, Jewish Theological Seminary, 212-678-8979.