

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES
NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER

FALL 1990

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Fall Conference - October 25, 1990



The Fall Conference of the AJL/NYMA Chapter will take place at the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 3080 Broadway (122nd Street), in the Wingate Auditorium, on Thursday, October 25th, 1990, from 12:45 - 4:00 pm.

The program, *Today's Ephemera Tomorrow's Historical Documents*, is made up of three parts: a film entitled *Let the Record Show: Practical Uses for Historical Documents*, followed by a panel discussion of archivists. The participants will speak about their particular archival collections and answer questions from the audience. They will also speak about the archive/library connection and how it applies to the school, synagogue, community center and academic libraries. The panelists are Shulamith Berger (Yeshiva University), Denise Gluck (Joint Distribution Committee), Roger Kohn (Jewish Theological Seminary of America) and Steven Siegel (92nd Street Y). The final segment of the meeting will be a film about the Joint Distribution Committee's archival materials.

Registration for the conference is \$5.00 for AJL members and \$7.00 for non-members. Lunch is available preceding the conference at the JTS cafeteria. Coffee will be served. Invitations to the conference are in the mail. For further information contact Marion Stein, conference coordinator, at 212-678-8836.

Fall Cataloging Workshop, November 17, 1990

The annual AJL/NYMA Cataloging Workshop will take place at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research Library, 1048 Fifth Avenue (at 86th Street) on November 19, 1990, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Registration for the workshop is \$5.00.

Hebrew/English Cataloging in an On-Line Environment is the subject matter for this workshop. Naomi Steinberger, Systems Librarian at the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America will speak on *Downloading from the Utilities to ALEPH, a multi-lingual integrated library system*. Aviva Astrinsky, Director and Ruth Ronen, Cataloger at Annenberg Research Institute in Philadelphia will speak on *Cataloging in Transition: From a Card Catalog to an Online Catalog*. Dr. Bella Haas Weinberg of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and St. John's University, both in New York, will speak on *Hebraic Authorities: Manual and Online*.

Following the workshop a reception will be held in honor of the publication of the "Yiddish Catalog and Authority File at the YIVO Library" (G.K. Hall, publs.) edited by Zachary Baker and Bella Haas Weinberg.

For further information contact Rita Lifton 212-678-8092 or Marcia Goldberg 215-635-7304.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

AJL in Jerusalem - July 1990: The First International Conference of Judaica and Israeli Librarians

The Association of Jewish Libraries celebrated its 25th year as an organization by holding its annual convention in Jerusalem July 2 - 6, 1990, together with two Israeli Library organizations. Over 100 librarians from the United States and Canada (about half the usual number of attendees at convention) joined with more than 600 Israeli librarians, combining an exhilarating collegial experience, along with multi-faceted program offerings.

Sessions on computer advances for cataloging and other aspects of technology in Information Science for Hebraica/Judaica to Reading Motivation materials/medial etc. were offered. Topics included Educational Software, Preservation Microfilming of Judaica, and Israeli Periodical Preservation at the Jewish National Library, biographies and autobiographies, and many other special interest sessions.

An International Symposium on Worldwide Jewish Children's Literature in the Diaspora was held on Wednesday, July 4th. It was organized through the efforts of Dr. Marcia Posner, outgoing President of AJL, who is an authority on children's literature. Respondents from France, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Holland participated. Data was collected from other countries as well.

Other subjects included Literature of the Adolescent, Holocaust literature (drama, music and literature) universal values vs. Jewish values in Jewish children's literature and Jewish folklore the world-over (with storytellers participating.)

Sessions were given in Hebrew as well as English, with simultaneous translation available.

The first evening the entire convention was hosted by the National Jewish Library and given a tour of their exhibition of rare manuscripts in their collection. A reception at the Israel Museum was also held which included tours of their exhibitions.

The AJL Books Awards were presented at the AJL Banquet held on the evening of July 5th. It was particularly memorable because of the presence of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, recipient of the Reference Book Award for The Talmud: A Reference Guide published in 1989. Rabbi Steinsaltz charmed the audience by telling anecdotes about librarians he met as a young man. Yaffa Ganz, winner of the Body

of Work Award who wrote among other books, the popular series Savta Simcha, was also present and delighted everyone with her remarks.

Another important aspect to convention is the presence of exhibitors. Jerusalem being home base to primary publishers for Judaica libraries, we had the advantage of having them represented. One learns much by scanning the books and talking with publishers or their representatives. Magnes Press of Hebrew University, Steimatsky, Geffen, Mossad Bialik, Jerusalem Books, as well as computer companies with software such as ALEPH and Sapphire were among the exhibitors.

The annual convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries is always a highlight of the year. It is an opportunity to stay current with what is happening in the library field, particularly the Judaica library, and to share with and learn from other librarians. This year in Jerusalem, for the first time ever, more than 750 librarians learned about library matters and about one another - many plans for networking began there. Without a doubt, we all felt it was an historic meeting.

As we begin our AJL-NYMA activities for the 1990-1991 season, we look forward again to interesting conferences and workshops. Our area is rich in talented people and institutional resources. Please plan to participate in our programs. All suggestions for future AJL-NYMA functions are welcome.

Looking forward to greeting you at our Fall Conference.

Esther Nussbaum, President

Current Exhibits in the New York Area

The Jewish Museum is home of an exhibition **Getting Comfortable in New York: The American Jewish Home 1880- 1950**. An exhibition of items associated with lives of the Jews in New York from their arrival from Europe at the turn of the century, through the Lower East Side, their moves uptown and finally their move to the suburbs. The exhibit is full of nostalgic items which any New York Jew will be pleased to see. This is the final exhibit at the Museum before they close for renovation. The exhibit runs until November 15, 1990.

The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America is currently exhibiting a show entitled **Back to Dombrovitz** photographs by Alice Zlotnick. These photos were taken on her recent trip to the Soviet Union. The exhibit runs until November 16th, 1990.

An exhibit entitled **Gentle Heroism: Women and the Holocaust, A Photographic and Documentary Exhibit** is on view until January 24, 1991. It is sponsored by the Holocaust Resource Center and Archives of Queensborough Community College. The exhibit is curated by Claire Hertzberg and Ronnee Berger.

Events in the Community

The Jewish Heritage Book Fair, sponsored by the Associated Y's of the New York area, will take place at the New York Armory, 67th Street and Park Avenue, on November 18th and 19th.

The Friends of the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of American is planning their annual concert for December. Further information will be available shortly.

From the Editor

Congratulations to Dr. Leonard Gold of the New York Public Library's Jewish Division on his appointment as President of the Jewish Book Council.

The AJL-NYMA Mailing List has been expanded. It contains over 300 names and is available for purchase. A fee of \$25 is charged for one time use or a yearly subscription of \$50 per academic year is available. Please contact Naomi Steinberger 212-678-8982.

Job Listings

Stern College is looking for a part-time Reference Librarian for evenings, 6 - 9 pm and Sundays, 12 - 6 pm. MLS Required, Hebrew preferred. Contact Edith Lubetski, 212-340-7720.

Jewish Theological Seminary Library is looking for Hebrew cataloger for one year to work on a United States Government grant to catalog the broadside collection. Starting November 1, 1990. Please contact Edith Degani, 212-678-8093.

CALENDAR

Fall Conference	October 25, 1990
Cataloging Workshop	November 19, 1990
Reference Workshop	February 13, 1991
Day School Workshop	March 12, 1991
Synagogue Workshop	to be announced
Spring Conference	May 20, 1991
AJL 26th Annual Conference, Miami Beach, Florida	June 23-26, 1991

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