

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER

SPRING 1992

VOL. 7, NO. 2

Spring Conference - May 20, 1992



The Spring Conference of the AJL/NYMA Chapter will take place at the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion Library, at 1 West 4th Street (corner of Mercer Street), on Wednesday, May 20th from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

Dr. Lawrence H. Schiffman, of New York University, will speak on **Books and Libraries at Qumran: Research Possibilities - Past, Present and Future.**

Registration for the conference is \$5.00 for AJL members and \$7.00 for non-members. Lunch is available preceding the conference at the New York University Kosher Deli in the Loeb Student Center. Coffee will be served. Invitations to the conference have been sent out. For further information contact Marion Stein, conference coordinator, at 212-678-8836.

National AJL Convention in Los Angeles, California June 21 - 24, 1991

The 1992 annual Association of Jewish Libraries convention will take place at the Ramada Hotel in Beverly Hills, California from June 21st to June 24th. The varied program will include items of interest for school, synagogue, community center, college, university and research libraries. There will be a special focus on the numerous Jewish resource centers in the Los Angeles area. A visit to the Simon Wiesenthal Center is among the activities planned for the conference. Reservation forms appeared in the March/April *AJL Newsletter*. Edith Lubetski is organizing a group rate flight from New York to Los Angeles. Contact her at 340-7720 for further information on the group package.

This conference will allow the Los Angeles Chapter to showcase the varied activities and facilities available in its area. Many of the speakers are from the LA area and have not been heard from at recent AJL meetings, which have been on the east coast (or in Jerusalem). NYMA chapter members will meet for one of the lunches and have an opportunity to be together.

NYMA Activities: Workshops and Fall Conference Report

Fall Conference - October 15, 1991

The Fall Conference of the AJL/NYMA Chapter was held at the Women's Resource Center of the National Conference for Jewish Women. The program was both historical and informational. Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, one of the founders of the resource center, gave a historical overview of the center. The current organizers of the Center focused on what the collection encompasses and how it is organized. There was a lively discussion as to how we, as Librarians, could help the resource center in the organization of their collection.

Fall Cataloging Workshop, December 12, 1991

NYMA's Fall 1990 Cataloging Workshop, held on December 12 at Temple Emanu-El, was devoted to the theme of "Specialization in Judaica Cataloging". During the first half of the program, Jay Rovner and Rivka Burkos, both of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, spoke, respectively, about the projects to catalog and computerize the Hebrew manuscript and broadside collections of the Seminary Library. In addition, Ms. Burkos gave a fascinating slide presentation showing broadsides before and after restoration work was done.

For the second part of the Workshop, attendees could choose one of three mini-sessions - Classification Schemes for Small Judaica Collections (Micha Oppenheim, JTS), Music Cataloging (Marcia Goldberg, Gratz), or Rabbinics Cataloging (Rabbi Clifford Miller, JTS). The smaller scale of these mini-sessions enabled participants to share problems of and solutions to cataloging within these specialized areas.

Submitted by Rita Lifton.

NYMA Reference Workshop, March 9, 1992

The annual NYMA Reference Workshop was held at Ramaz Upper School on March 9th. The guest speaker was Abraham Edelheit, who, together with his father, Hershel Edelheit co-authored the **Bibliographies of Holocaust Literature** (Westview Press, 1986) and its supplements and the **Chronology of the Holocaust**. Their lecture on aspects of bibliographic research on the Holocaust and the workshop that followed proved very informative and interesting.

Submitted by Yael Penkower

NYMA Day School and Synagogue Workshop, March 23, 1992

Our Day School and Synagogue Librarians Workshop on March 23rd was well attended, with strong participation and valuable insight. Sylvia Avner, Marcia Posner and Ruth Zakutins delivered enlightening discussions on our topic: **Teaching Values and Morals through Literature**. Some of the insights discussed were: Book need to teach and entertain; choose books that we like so children will like them too;

and children like to borrow the same books over and over again. On the other hand, teach children about the other authors and books at story time. Children bring their own experiences to each book. Reading with a child encourages confidence. There are many books available for teaching morals and values. Morals taught at the session were: get teachers interested and involved and get parents involved too.

Submitted by Eileen Shmidman.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year has been a very busy one for our chapter. Several important events have taken place since our first newsletter. The Cataloging Workshop, the Day School Workshop, the Reference Workshop were all highly successful. We look forward in one week's time to our Spring Conference which will take place at Hebrew Union College. Please be sure to attend. The program will surely be very exciting. Dr. Lawrence H. Schiffman, renowned expert, will be speaking on the Dead Sea Scrolls. The title of his talk is **Books and Libraries at Qumran: Research Possibilities - Past, Present and Future.**

The most absorbing work of our chapter this year has been the preparation for AJL Convention, 1993, which will be taking place in our fair city. We need additional help on nearly all the committees. There is important work to be done and you will find something to do to suit your time and interest. Please contact Esther Nussbaum or Edith Lubetski, co-chairmen of the 1993 Convention. Don't wait to hear from them; call and volunteer! We need your help. I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Conference on May 20th.

Marion Stein, AJL-NYMA Chapter President

AJL at the NEW YORK VISTA JUNE 20 - 23, 1993

Preparation is in full swing for the 1993 AJL conference in New York. The Conference will be at the New York Vista, at the World Trade Center. This will enable both New Yorkers and visitors to experience an emerging neighborhood which they do not frequent. The meeting space is ample. We are preparing a spectacular exhibit which will entice the entire Jewish community. We are planning programs which could only be found in New York. The activities will be unsurpassed and the food will be top rate. If you need to allocate funds for next years budget make sure to include attending the 1993 AJL National Convention in New York. Treat yourself to a few nights at the Vista; they will not cost that much more than taking a taxi home late at night!! So start planning now.

Exhibitions of Interest in our Community

Columbia University has mounted an exhibition **Jewish Literature Through the Ages**, an exhibition of rarities from the Judaica collection of Columbia University. The exhibit marks the founding of the Judaica collection, 100 years ago by a gift to Columbia of the Library of Temple Emanu-El. The exhibition contains 117 items from its Rare Book and Manuscript Library, 27 of them from the Temple Emanu-El gift.

The exhibit runs through July 17th in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library in Butler Library, Columbia University, Broadway at 116th Street. It is free and open to the public from 9 am to 4:45 pm Monday through Friday. For further information call 854-2231.

From the Editor

The AJL-NYMA community wishes Rickie Dreyfus condolences on the loss of her mother.

The AJL-NYMA board has elections every two years. The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers:

President:	Marion Stein
Vice President/President Elect:	Tzivia Atik
Corresponding Secretary:	Shandy Kurzman
Recording Secretary:	Shulamith Berger
Treasurer:	Sylvia Avner
Membership:	Naomi Steinberger
Newsletter:	Beth Feinberg
Publicity:	Rita Lifton
Day School Workshop:	Beth Braunstein, Roz Friedman, Eileen Shmidman
Synagogue Workshop:	Salome Cory, Annette Landau
Reference Workshop:	Leah Adler, Yael Penkower, Noreen Wachs
Cataloging Workshop:	Marlene Schiffman, Hadassah Schwartz
Past President:	Esther Nussbaum

Elections for officers will take place at the Spring Conference on May 20th. Make sure you join in electing the new officers.

We wish to welcome new AJL members into our local NYMA chapter. The new members are Frances S. Deutsch, Alfred Eidlisz, Solomon Friedman, Tamar Klein, Margery Leslie Morse and Diane G. Person. We hope to be able to welcome you in person at our forthcoming meetings.

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.

Naomi M. Steinberger, Newsletter Editor, 212-678-8982