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# NYMA NEWS

Newsletter of AJL-NYMA

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Winter-Spring 1999

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## Y.U. HOSTS CATALOGING WORKSHOP by Stanley Nachamie

The NYMA Cataloging workshop was hosted on March 2, 1998, by the Mendel Gottesman Library of Hebraica and Judaica at Yeshiva University (Y.U.) and chaired by Elisheva Schwartz and Rachel Simon. Attendees were treated to a demonstration of Yeshiva University Library Information System (YULIS), which also serves the Pollack General Studies Library, the Y.U. Museum, the Y.U. Archives, and the Stern College for Women library.

The program began with Pearl Berger, Dean of Y.U. libraries. She explained how YULIS, since its installation in the fall of 1997, has been a great success, especially due to the efforts of Systems Librarian Leah Adler (head of the Gottesman Library) and the entire cataloging department. In addition, Y.U. expects YULIS to be accessible online from the outside "in the next few months."

Next, Mrs. Adler demonstrated the various Hebrew and English searches available on YULIS, which can be entered via typed commands alone or with icons. Among its outstanding features:

- \*The subject search, which yielded a list of applicable works in reverse chronological (as opposed to alphabetical) order, so that the return to the starting search screen was unnecessary.

- \* The ability to call up a history of the user's previous 20 commands, which can be edited for resubmission as desired.

- \* "Hot links" that take the patron from the URL address in a catalog record to the actual website.

Rebecca Malamud, Senior Cataloger at the Gottesman Library, spoke next on data transfer and barcoding, and on the

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year has gotten off to a great start with our Fall Conference "Technological Applications for Today's Libraries." Sixty librarians heard presentations about using the Internet for acquisitions and Biblical research, learned about communications with webmasters, and received an update on the latest in Judaica CD-ROMs. We have started planning our next event, a reference workshop, which will take place in January and will be devoted to research in rabbinics.

We are happy to do our share to keep the momentum going. However, as was noted at the Fall conference, we would like to hear from you, our membership. This issue of NYMA News includes a questionnaire in which we ask about the kinds of programs you would like to have us offer in the future. Please take the time to fill out the questionnaire and do let us know if you wish to be more actively involved in NYMA.

Also included in this issue is an automation survey which is aimed at school, synagogue and organizational libraries. We urge those librarians who have installed automated systems to fill out the survey so that others planning to automate their libraries can contact them when deciding which system to install.

We look forward to hearing from you and to implementing your ideas, so that our chapter is ever more responsive to the needs of its membership! Best wishes for a happy Chanukah,

*Rita Lifton*

## AJL AT IASL by Ya'akov Aronson

Hazel Karp and Rita Frischer gave a spirited talk on "Literature as a Means of Teaching Values to Children" before the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Association of School Librarianship, held July 1998 at Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel. Participating in the conference were delegates from 25 countries.

AJL's representatives spoke on the teaching of moral values in the lower school, basically through reading programs but also through exhibitions and awards for further emphasis. The core of the program discussed was based on a unit developed by the Jewish Theological Seminary's Melton Center and used in Hazel's school, the Greenfield Hebrew Academy in Atlanta. Rita's thoughts on the subject were gleaned from experience in her job as Director of the Blumenthal Library of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles.

The product of Hazel and Rita's work is a 27-page bibliography of materials suitable for lower school students in 10 significant moral

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## TO POLAND AND BACK

### *Reflections on ALEPH Consortium*

by Naomi M. Steinberger

This September the annual conference of the International Consortium of ALEPH Users was held at the Polish Parliament (SEJM) in Warsaw, Poland. ALEPH, the integrated computer library system developed at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, is used by the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) and more than 200 libraries throughout the world, primarily in Europe. Meeting 100 library colleagues at the Polish Parliament enabled us to share information, learn of new projects utilizing the ALEPH system, and hear about the new features and developments from senior ALEPH staff members.

Following the two-day ALEPH meeting, I spent a day at the Jewish Historical Institute. I had taken up an open invitation given to me by a librarian there, Malgorzata Bonikowska, who during the summer of 1997 had spent three months as an intern in our JTS Library.

The Jewish Historical Institute building stands on one of Warsaw's main streets. The building was constructed in 1936 as the Institute for Jewish Studies; it once stood next to the Great Synagogue, which was dynamited in 1943 by the Nazis after the Warsaw Ghetto was razed. Although the Institute building too was destroyed, the exterior shell survived and in 1947 was rebuilt as the Jewish Historical Institute to carry out research on the history of Jewish life in Poland.

In the 1990s the Institute has become a center of Jewish activities. The entire building is currently under renovation. It houses a significant Jewish library, with many manuscripts, including the Emanuel Ringelblum collection of the underground Warsaw Ghetto archives. The librarians were very proud of their new shelving and the fact that they had recently fumigated the books in "gas chambers." At the Documentation of Historical Monuments, I saw page proofs of a book about every synagogue and Jewish cemetery in Poland. Jan Jagielski, a non-Jew, had gone to each site to have it researched and photographed! The museum is currently under renovation and there are no exhibits, but the curators were most gracious and we exchanged publications.

Not only the archives but the Genealogy project as well are funded by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation. The latter is run by Yale Resiner, a JTS graduate, who has a wealth of information going back hundreds of years. Every day people appear in search of Jewish ancestors. Their hunting results in reunited families and often newly discovered Jewish adults, who as children had been hidden during the war.

It is here, in the archives and Genealogy project, where the echoes of a formally vibrant Jewish community are most heard. For there is the history of the three million Jews, ten percent of the population, who lived the 1,000 years in Poland. And today on one single desk, in a bright red multivolume set, sits the list of those who survived the Holocaust in Poland. ☆

**Comments? Ideas? Suggestions? Or professional news about yourself?**  
**Please write to: THE AJL-NYMA NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE,**  
**c/o Marion Stein, 28 Douglass St., Brooklyn, NY 11231.**  
**E-mail: marions@panix.com; Fax: 718-428-3617.**

*Association of Jewish Libraries*  
*New York Metropolitan Area*  
*c/o Rita Lifton,*  
*Jewish Theological Seminary Library*  
*3080 Broadway*  
*New York, NY 10027*  
*Tel: 212-678-8092*  
*E-mail: rilifton@jtsa.edu*

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## SPRING 1998 CONFERENCE AT MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE

by Rita Lifton

The Museum of Jewish Heritage, A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, lies at the lower tip of Manhattan, close to the place where 23 Jewish refugees landed in New Amsterdam in 1654. In Spring 1998 it became the site of AJL-NYMA's Spring 1998 Conference.

The program began with a presentation by Shari Segal, Curator of Special Exhibitions, who described the Museum's beginnings and design. The first floor, "Jewish Life a Century Ago," is thematically arranged. After an introduction to Jewish culture, the richness and diversity of the Jewish experience from the late nineteenth century to the eve of the Holocaust is depicted through photographs, documents, and artifacts.

The second floor is devoted to "The War Against the Jews." An overview and time line of the Holocaust is given along one wall while galleries that focus on specific aspects of that period open off the main path. The third floor, entitled "Jewish Renewal," describes post-Holocaust Jewish life and houses special exhibits. Ms. Segal concluded her remarks by noting that the Museum is continuously adding to its collection, with special interest in topics of the Holocaust and American Jewish history.

Ivy Barsky, Director of Education, described the Museum's outreach activities to the Jewish community via synagogues and community centers. The Museum is also committed to reaching students in public schools and offers guided class visits, pre- and post-visit curriculum materials, classroom speakers and educator training workshops.

The final speaker, Bonnie Gurewitsch, the Museum's Archivist, spoke about the library and archives. The library combines the Museum's own collection, which focuses on the pre-war period, the Holocaust and its aftermath, Israel and Zionism, with that of the Center for Holocaust Studies in Brooklyn, which focused on the Holocaust and its aftermath. The Museum's holdings were not cataloged according to a defined system, while most of the Holocaust Center collection was cataloged according to the Library of Congress. The 2 collections are in the process of being integrated. The library is used mainly for in-house research but will consider outside reference or research requests on a case-by-case basis.

The Museum archives include 3,000 oral history interviews on audiotape which the Holocaust Center recorded between 1974-1990. These tapes contain testimonies of both survivors and liberators. In addition, the Museum will be one of the repositories of the videotapes being recorded by Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. Future plans include digitization of the Holocaust Center oral histories on audiotape and the formation of one database which would include both these audiotapes and the videotapes from the Spielberg archive.

These three excellent presentations were followed by a tour of the Museum. A final note about the overall design: as you exit the third floor at the end of the tour, you are treated to a breathtaking view of the Statue of Liberty, an appropriate way to end a visit to a Museum whose message is the danger intolerance poses to every individual's liberty. ☆

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Reference Workshop:** "Reference Sources in Rabbinics," Jan. 13, 1999, at Stern College for Women, 245 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10016.  
**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries:** June 20-23, 1999, Boca Raton Resort & Club, Boca Raton, FL.

(IASL, cont'd)

areas including, among others, honesty, *lashon hara* (gossip or slander); sharing; respect for elders; responsibility for choices, and even ecology.

Selected books were reviewed and participants were asked to submit additional suggestions to the editors.

Judging by the audience's reception, the enthusiasm of the speakers carried over extremely well. A big *yasher koach* to Hazel and Rita! ☆

(Y.U. Workshop, cont'd)

various ways of downloading and uploading records between YULIS and OCLC or RLIN. There are various systems within YULIS to edit exported records after they are downloaded, but the cataloging staff prefers to edit the records in the source databases, since YULIS is extremely "error-sensitive" to records it receives. When YULIS was initially installed, smart barcodes were ordered, which were generally accurate, but currently dumb barcodes are applied. Ms. Malamud also discussed the speedy progress being made on database cleanup.

Sharon Rotter, a cataloger, spoke on cataloging and authority control in YULIS, and on the various systems in which cataloging can be done in YULIS, such as "EASYPAC" and "EASYCAT." Headings are linked to MARC format authority records; YULIS creates temporary "heading authority" records for all new headings entered. These temporary records can later be incorporated into authority records imported from the National Authority File, and/or further enhanced by catalogers. (Leah Adler earlier mentioned that Y.U. adds a few Hebrew script references for each Hebrew author.) YULIS provides various daily error reports, which greatly help the process of authority control. These point out, among other things, new headings that are suspiciously similar to already established headings or their cross-references.

The first part of the program concluded with a short question and answer session. The next started off with various updates from Rachel Simon, who preceded her remarks with original English and Hebrew limericks in praise of catalogers.

One issue the Committee has been working on is bias in Library of Congress subject headings, such as "B.C." and "A.D.," "Marranos" (which literally means "swine" in Spanish), or such terms as "Moral theology," "Night prayer," and "Converts," which are either see-references or established headings exclusively for the Christian meaning of these concepts. According to Lenore Bell, Hebraica Cataloging Team Leader at the Library of Congress (LC), some changes such as "Marranos" could be easily made, but the "B.C." and "A.D." would be the hardest, in large part due to LC's online system's limited capacity for global changes.

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“The Library that poured out of our souls”  
**THE JEWISH WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTER**

by Annette Henkin Landau

*This article is the fifth in an ongoing series about libraries in the NYMA chapter.*

In 1982 Nina Beth Cardin approached the National Council of Jewish Women, New York Section, on behalf of a collection of documents on Jewish Feminism that for six years had been living a nomadic existence in various New York apartments. It was temporarily being housed in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street “Y.”

In Nina Cardin’s words, “. . . we established a library to collect and catalog the literally hundreds of works that were pouring out of the souls of the movement’s leadership . . . not only books, but innovative liturgies, ceremonies and rituals, studies . . . on the status of the Jewish woman . . . But we are far short of having a comprehensive collection. We have only one thousand acquisitions when we should have over four thousand.”

The NCJW-NY Section took pity on the homeless young collection and gave it a home at 9 East 69<sup>th</sup> Street. The Jewish Women’s Resource Center then became a project of the New York Section. But Nina Cardin, however prophetic her vision, could not predict how Jewish Feminism, considered by some an oxymoron, would grow.

We at the JWRC now have over ten thousand acquisitions, a collection still far short of being “comprehensive.” Because of the unique nature of its material, we had to devise a unique

cataloging system. Both articles and books are stored in order of acquisition, but we often do analytics of whole issues of periodicals or the individual chapters of books. It is, in effect, a kind of analytical acquisitions list.

This sometimes puzzles first-time visitors who find they cannot browse in any meaningful way. But puzzlement turns to delight when the computer (we use InMagic) produces for them a bibliography, not only of books and periodicals, but of book chapters, unpublished theses, and obscure newspaper articles. In addition we have a unique list of descriptors of subject headings, to which the staff recently had the great pleasure of adding “Orthodox Feminism.”

Many distinguished women have used these resources — rabbis, poets, politicians, scholars. We always ask for a finished copy of whatever they are working on for the collection, and we always get it. Reference questions come in from all over the United States and Canada, sometimes from other countries as well.

In addition to the Library, the Resource Center sponsors a Book Discussion Group, a Women’s Empowerment Group, and a Poetry Workshop. We have co-published two important anthologies, *Sarah’s Daughters Sing*, with Ktav, and *Which Lillith?* with Jason Aronson. In addition,

we have published a number of solo books of poetry by distinguished Jewish women poets — *Di Froyen: Proceedings of the 1995 Conference on Women and Yiddish*; and a periodical, *The Jewish Women’s Literary Annual*, now in its third volume.

We have hundreds of new rituals devised by Jewish women since the movement started, in the 1970s -- feminist haggadot from all over the world, many Rosh Chodesh services, our own Tu B’ Shvat haggadah, egalitarian wedding and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies, healing and “wise women” coming-of-age rituals. But our most frequent requests are for naming ceremonies for baby girls.

Very often the request comes from a new father. We send out sample ceremonies, from which parents create their own *brit bat*. More often than not we get a new ceremony back, prettily illustrated and tied with a pink ribbon! To date, there are over 100 baby-naming ceremonies for all kinds and combinations of families, including one from an Ashkenazi (Polish) — Bene Israel (India) family who included the floating of flowers on water in their ceremony.

The Jewish Women’s Resource Center welcomes visitors and researchers. We are open 9-5 Mon-Thurs., 9-4 Fri. ☆

#### AUTOMATION SURVEY

AJL-NYMA is developing a list of libraries in the NYMA area that have automated systems. If you are willing to share ideas with others planning to install an automated system, please fill out the form below and send it to Shulamith Berger, Yeshiva University Archives, 500 W. 185<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10033; phone 212-960-5451; fax 212-960-0066; e-mail: [sberger@ymail.yu.edu](mailto:sberger@ymail.yu.edu).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (Day or Evening \_\_\_\_\_)

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HARDWARE \_\_\_\_\_ SOFTWARE \_\_\_\_\_

For anyone planning library automation, we call your attention to an excellent series of articles published as part of *AJL Newsletter’s* “Get Wired” column: v. 16, no. 4 (Nov./Dec. 1997), v. 17, no. 1 (Feb./Mar. 1998), v. 17, no. 2 (May/June 1998) and v. 18, no. 1 (Sept./Oct. 1998). In addition, AJL maintains an ongoing Automation Committee chaired by Andrew Wertheimer. He can be contacted at Woodman Astronomical Library, 6521 Sterling Hall, 475 N. Charter St., Madison, WI 53706; phone: 608-262-1320; fax: 608-262-9274; e-mail: [abwerthe@students.wisc.edu](mailto:abwerthe@students.wisc.edu).

## AJL-NYMA QUESTIONNAIRE

Please feel free to remain anonymous if you so desire.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Library name or type (e.g. university, synagogue): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone no: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX no: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you subscribe to Ha-Safran? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a member of AJL? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not a librarian, what is your interest in AJL-NYMA? \_\_\_\_\_

What types of programs and workshops would you like NYMA to offer? \_\_\_\_\_

Which NYMA programs have been most valuable to you professionally? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in presenting a workshop or program on behalf of NYMA? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, in what topic? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the most convenient time (day of week, time of day) for you to attend programs? \_\_\_\_\_

What features would you like to see in the NYMA Newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to contribute to the NYMA Newsletter? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, on what topic? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in volunteering for NYMA? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to do? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Please return to: Rita Lifton, Jewish Theological Seminary of America Library, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027.  
Phone no: 212-678-3092; FAX: 212-678-8998; E-mail: [riliton@jtsa.edu](mailto:riliton@jtsa.edu).

## (Y.U. Workshop, cont'd)

From LC's end, Lenore had drawn the Committee's attention to new subject cataloging developments published in the fall *Cataloging Service Bulletin*, including new chronological subdivisions for "Responsa" (1800-1948 and 1948- ) and "Arab-Israeli conflict" (itself a reworked heading). Rachel then discussed some interesting name authority cases she had come across in her work for the Hebraica NACO (Name Authority Cooperative) Funnel program. She also reported that RLG (the Research Libraries Group, which runs RLIN) has decided not to implement any linking of Hebrew script forms to name authority records until the new MUMS+ system is implemented at LC. At the conclusion of the program, workshop attendees visited current exhibits of the Y.U. Museum, including a Herzl exhibit, which was specially opened that afternoon for them. ♣

## REMINDER

This is the time to send in your membership dues to the AJL-NYMA Chapter for 1998-99. Please fill out the form below and mail it, together with a check for \$10 payable to AJL-NYMA, to Sylvia Avner, 2277 Westlake Court, Oceanside, NY 11572.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AMT. ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

## *Travel Subsidies Available for the 1999 AJL Convention*

Two kinds of travel subsidies are available to those who wish to attend the AJL National Convention, June 20-23, 1999:

1. If you are a new member of AJL and need help defraying expenses, we can help you. Please submit your application postmarked **no later than February 1, 1999, to Sally Brown, 351 South Merkle Road, Columbus, OH 43209.**

**Application:** Write a letter of 500 words or fewer telling us why you would like to attend the 1999 convention. State how long you have been employed in a Judaica library, what part of the cost your institution will pay, your educational background, whether or not there is an AJL chapter in your area, and whether or not you participate.

2. For long-standing members active in AJL and newer members who would like to participate more fully, current paid-up members should send letters to **Harvey P. Horowitz, Frances-Henry Library, Hebrew Union College-JIR, 3077 University Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90007-3976.** Letters of application should include the following information:

- \* Name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and the name and address of your library.
- \* Length of AJL membership and number of conventions previously attended.
- \* The amount and source of support you will receive from local funds.

3. If you are currently active (local or national officer, committee member, convention program presenters or moderator), describe your participation and its benefits to AJL. If you have not yet become active, describe your plans for future participation. Examples might include work on education, membership, publicity, or book award committees; writing articles, book reviews, or soliciting ads for the *AJL Newsletter* or *Judaica Librarianship*.

4. **The deadline for applications is March 1.** You will be notified of the committee's decision by March 31. Members in the Boca Raton area and first-year members are not eligible (see above for new members). For more information, please contact **Harvey P. Horowitz, [hhorowitz@mizar.usc.edu](mailto:hhorowitz@mizar.usc.edu); phone (213) 749-3424 or fax (213) 747-6128.**

### **MAZEL TOV**

**To Shuli Berger, on her marriage to Jai Zion.  
To Sharon Rotter, on her marriage to Yitzchok Hammer.**

### **CONDOLENCES**

**To Leah Adler, on the death of her mother, Lena Jeselsohn.  
May she be comforted among the mourners of Zion.**