

# NYMA NEWS

Newsletter of AJL-NYMA

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## Out of One, Many Library Smarts & Groupthink @ Fall Conference

Behind every great library stands a great librarian. And behind every great librarian often stands a loyal, competent staff. Behind this staff, it is hoped, await eager patrons. Participation of all hands depends not only on group cooperation but on continual improvement of library skills and dedication to quality service.

How to involve all and one? This was the subject of AJL-NYMA's conference "Professional Development: Inside and Outside the Library," held Monday, Oct. 30, 2006, at Ramaz. A panel of three librarians discussed various aspects of their work, which entails both on-the-job and off-hour roles and responsibilities.

### Knowledge is Power

The first speaker was Dr. Louise Sherby, Associate Dean and Chief Librarian at Hunter College Libraries, CUNY. In "Joining the Club: Being Active in Professional Organizations is not about Schmoozing," Dr. Sherby urged librarians to join professional listservs in library technology, reference and information literacy, assessment of resources, accreditation issues, and fundraising. She also urged librarians to bounce ideas off one's colleagues, hear what others institutions are doing, and to create support networks.

Dr. Sherby covered the development of leadership skills and skills needed to work in groups in order to plan programs or serve on committees. She stressed the importance of keeping abreast of new technological developments. Newsletters, websites, and journals are excellent ways to keep up to date.

In addition, she noted that many of her faculty-positioned librarians publish

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## A Few Words

Our programs for the year 2006-07 opened with the well-attended Fall 2006 Conference, held on October 30, 2006 at Ramaz Lower School entitled "Professional Development: Inside and Outside the Library." Dr. Louise Sherby, Associate Dean and Chief Librarian, Hunter Libraries, CUNY explained the nature and value of professional organizations such as AJL for networking and information sharing in her address, "Joining the Club: Being Active in Professional Organizations is not about Schmoozing."

Naomi Steinberger, Director of Library Services, Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary, presented a continuation of a talk she gave at the AJL National Convention with an introduction, "Staff Development on a Shoe-String, Part 2," followed by a hands-on session in which we broke into several groups for discussion and brain-storming. Liza Stabler, Librarian of the Ivan M. Stettenheim Library at Temple Emanu-El, familiarized us with practices from her professional experience including the integration of volunteers into the library structure. She discussed the positive benefits of networking within one's institution. Liza is specially to be thanked as she stepped in at the last minute. Thanks to Chaya Wiesman and the Ramaz Lower School Staff for a most comfortable venue for our meeting.

The NYMA Board is eagerly anticipating the upcoming Cataloging Workshop, "The Changing Nature of the Catalog and its Integration with Other Discovery Tools;" the Day School/High School Workshop on "Writing Successful Grant Proposals;" the Reference Workshop; and the Spring Workshop on aspects of educational technology. In addition, the Board is currently involved in making suggestions for constitutional revisions that will be presented to the membership for a vote.

Check out our ever-improving website at [ajlnyма.org](http://ajlnyма.org). Our Webmaster, Steven Bernstein, has posted past newsletters and a list of our current and upcoming events. Thanks to him for maintaining this site for us.

Recently, we have welcomed some new board members as well. Leslie Monchar is our new v.p./president-elect, and Leah Moskovits is co-chairing the Day School/High School Workshop with Roz Friedman. We wish them well in their new roles.

I would like to thank all those on the present board, especially the workshop coordinators, for their tireless efforts on behalf of NYMA. We have all benefited greatly from the organization of superb programming this past year and into this new academic period.

**Marlene Schiffman**  
**President, AJL-NYMA**

## Where Fun & Learning Meet

**Jewish Children Museum's Library  
Much More than Reading Experience  
by Hallie Cantor, Acquisitions,  
Hedi Steinberg Library, Yeshiva University**

*This article is part of FOCUS ON LIBRARIES, an in-depth series on Judaica libraries in the New York metropolitan area.*

The square, futuristic building stands proudly on the corner of Kingston Avenue and Eastern Parkway. Outside, the giant *dreidel*, the entrance with the montage of photos showing laughing children – all point to an adventure in learning and a joyful discovery that awaits inside.

### Mission Statement

To understand the library of the Jewish Children's Museum is to understand the Museum itself. As an alternative to the periodic children's shows at the Javits Center, Tzivos Hashem, the youth organization established by the seventh Lubavitcher Rebbe, zt"l, set out years ago to create someplace more permanent for their activities.

The content, designed with kids in mind, had to be fun, entertaining, and family-oriented. It also had to be educational, as befitting Tzivos Hashem's commitment to outreach. Basically patrons would come away not only with a taste of Judaism, but smiles on their faces.

Fast forward to 2005. Upon its inception, the Library of the Jewish Children's Museum has helped the Museum welcome hundreds of visitors and Judaica curiosity-seekers. At the same time, it has become an informal resource center servicing the local community.

### Content & Community

The library, located in the Museum's basement, is medium-sized and windowless. Its limited capacity allows for just enough space for 5,000 books. Along the walls closed cabinets are waiting to be filled.

"But," says librarian Amy Shuter, "we're aiming for up to 4,000. We have over 2,000 now."

Ms. Shuter, officially Director of Library & Multi-Media Services, joined the library even before the Museum's completion. Since then, she has had to wear several hats: cataloging, reference, collections development, acquisitions, and, above all, public relations. She also has non-library-related responsibilities such as Lower Level and Crafts Manager, and Human Resources Administrator.

Visitors come to the basement, following the tours, to make arts and crafts which are included in the admission fee. The

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Committee chairs are not elected officers. We welcome volunteers; please contact the committee chairs. NYMA News is published twice a year, Spring/Summer & Fall/Winter, by the AJL-NYMA Committee. For questions or comments, contact Hallie Cantor, 383 Kingston Ave., #81, Brooklyn, NY 11213, or e-mail above.

**(Museum, cont'd)**

library, located next door to the arts and crafts room, is directly involved in these programs, planning and coordinating additional fun stuff for children and parents. In a sense, the entire lower level is a multimedia crafts and activity center.

The library is there to gratify – and possibly whet – the curiosity of the Museum visitors who, it is hoped, will be stimulated after the tour to learn more about Judaism. All Jewish subjects are covered, both fiction and non-fiction, with one reference section for classic texts and commentaries. There are no Yiddish or Hebrew books; all are in English. Multiple copies are kept. Almost everything is for young people, and books are circulated to grades Pre 1A-12. In addition, there are non-circulating board books and books geared at toddlers. Adult material is there only if it supports the subject matter.

"We stay focused on the needs of the Museum," she said. "Nothing cerebral or highbrow," just plain, down-to-earth books about Jewish leaders, stories, legends, customs, and laws.

The choice of reading material reflects not only the Museum's goal of dissemination to the outside world, but the character of the surrounding community. The Jewish Children's Museum is located in Crown Heights, the Brooklyn neighborhood that is world headquarters for the Chabad-Lubavitch movement. Over 10,000 Chassidic families live there; for a \$10 year membership fee they can come to the library from four to six p.m. and use its holdings for class work or a place to just curl up and read.

The small size of the library, in addition to the small-town,

"*shtetl*" feel of Crown Heights, lend for an intimate, club-like atmosphere. Friends bring along friends; even mommies and daddies drop in.

Because of the specific clientele, care is taken with collection development, which entails extreme sensitivity to the tastes of the ultra-Orthodox community. And because most of the publishers are Orthodox, the range is somewhat limited.

***"We're still quite young, only two years old. But there is so much possibility."***

In spite of the small number of materials, the Elazar classification system is used. "Dewey or Weine just isn't going to work," Ms. Shuter said. She chose Elazar because of the detail that she felt it had to offer for a collection which covers such a range of Jewish subjects.

Funding comes through the Museum and grants, as well as donors who like to purchase books in someone's honor or memory. A small donor plaque lines one wall; below it is the catalog, completely computerized. No Internet is available, Ms. Shuter stressed, except to access the online, web-based catalog ([library.jcm.museum](http://library.jcm.museum)). It was important that the catalog be web-based so that people all over the world, including the *shlichim* (Chabad emissaries), could have access to the varied Judaic children's book collection available at the Museum.

The place is constantly busy, especially in the afternoon, when the pupils come in from the local

cheder or yeshiva. Eventually helping hands will be needed; in the meantime, it is still very much a one-woman act.

"We're still quite young," she said, "only two years old. But there is so much possibility."

**Learning Activity**

Ms. Shuter then gave a mini-tour around the building. In the crafts center, some teenage girls (paid employees) were putting finishing touches on a project. A small synagogue is used not only as a place for prayer but as a showpiece for Jewish study and ritual. Everything—even a cheery sign outside the restroom explaining *asher yatzar*, the blessing made after using the toilet—is geared toward *chinuch*, the education of children.

Ms. Shuter stopped at the video theater, equipped with a multimedia center in which to show or produce Jewish-themed videos. Two computer labs designed for instruction and independent use will eventually feature original games, and activities like Internet Treasure Hunts and Webquests. Internet use will be guided and controlled through a firewall.

Then she unlocked the room next door. Inside, a small auditorium contained a podium with symmetrical panels of contestant seats, and an emcee's platform with microphone. Along the sides were screens and lights that flash when in used, and a large wheel marked "Jewopardy."

Though not yet up and running, Jewopardy aims to emulate the famous game show but with quizzes on Jewish religion, history, and rituals. Participants get to answer questions and possibly earn the chance to win prizes. In the interim, until

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## Past/Present/Future

### **COMING SOON**

**Cataloging Workshop: "The Changing Nature of the Catalog and its Integration with Other Discovery Tools."** Mon. March 5, 1-4 at the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary.  
**Day School / High School Workshop: "Writing Successful Grant Proposals."** March 13<sup>th</sup>, SAR High School, Riverdale.

### **GOT CASH?**

For those wishing to attend this year's AJL Convention, in Phoenix, AZ, from June 17-20, 2007, at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort and Villas, NYMA is offering a limited number of \$250 stipends to paid-up members of both NYMA and AJL. For more info go to [www.ajlnyma.org](http://www.ajlnyma.org); under "Resources," click "Scholarship."

### **HATZLACHAH RABBAH**

**Leslie Monchar** has replaced **Elana Gensler** as NYMA's vice-president/president elect for the coming year. **Leah Moskovits** has succeeded to Leslie's position on the board as co-chair of the Day School/High School Workshop. NYMA welcomes Leslie and Leah to their new positions and wishes Elana all the best.

**Steven Bernstein** has left his position as cataloger at the Jewish Theological Seminary and is now a cataloger at Central Connecticut State University.

### **CHILDREN'S HOUR**

Once again people ate, schmoozed, networked, and gathered round for talk and tips at the Annual Jewish Children's Book Writer's Conference, held Sun., Nov. 19th, at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y's Buttenweiser Library. Hosted by Anna Olswanger and **Steven Siegel**, the conference featured editors, writers, and illustrators, who discussed the trends in Jewish children's book publishing world.

### **TO MAKE-& SERVE-HISTORY**

New at the Center for Jewish History: the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC). The unified catalog provides integrated access to the vast library archive, as well as museum collections of all the Center's five partner organizations—YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, Leo Baeck Institute, American Sephardi Federation, the

American Jewish Historical Society, and Yeshiva University Museum. Already over 330,000 bibliographic records are in CJH's OPAC, with eventually an entry for each item held by the Center's five partners. Users will be able to search the holdings by many different criteria, including name, subject, geographic area, date, and format. Once the final touches are in place, the catalog will be accessible through a link on the Center's website, at [www.cjh.org](http://www.cjh.org).

### **ALSO AT CJH**

A three-year project being launched by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and funded by a major grant from the Howard P. Milstein Foundation Jewish Archive Project. The project consists of a survey of the five partner organizations' archives, and Jewish records currently deposited into the YIVO archives, to identify the historically valuable portions. Additional activities include a website that will incorporate the results of the archival survey as well as a gallery of digitized documents from each of the archives; a publication that will summarize the survey results and include an index of research topics discovered during the course of the survey; a conference and symposium on Jewish social, cultural, and political history; and Research Fellowships that will be awarded to conference presenters. Participating agencies: the Educational Alliance, F.E.G.S. Health and Human Services System, the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, Surprise Lake Camp, and the New York Association for New Americans (NYANA)—all of which were chosen for the importance of their contributions to New York Jewish history and for the significance of their institutional archives. An Academic Advisory Committee will provide intellectual assistance and be comprised of university historians, professionals for the five organizations, and communal activists.

### **CONDOLENCES**

To **Micha & Doris Oppenheim** on the passing of their daughter Raizel Rozwaski.  
To **Shelly Felt**, on the passing of her father Nathan Leibowitz.  
To **Noreen Wachs**, on the passing of her mother Helen Halpern.  
May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion in Jerusalem.

## Mazel Tov!

*This past half-year we have been blessed with quite a bonus of simchas:*

To **Yosafit & Basya Karp**, on the marriage of their daughter Raizy to Shmuel Reich;  
also on the birth of her grandson Nissan. Parents Aharon & Yocheved Karp.

To **Joel & Noreen Wachs**, on the birth of their grandson Tzvi Mordechai.  
Parents Tamar & Josh Kahn.

To **Lawrence & Marlene Schiffman**, on the birth of their grandson Shachar Aharon.  
Parents Hadassah & Harel Levy.

To **Phil & Joyce Levine**, on the birth of their granddaughter Talia Shoshana Levine.  
Parents Yaakov & Tova Levine.

To **David & Beth Braunstein** on the engagement of their daughter Devorah to Meir Bar-David.

### *Future NYMA dynasty?*

Two of our very own members, **Alex & Leah Moskovits** and  
**Ronnie & Michal Malen**, are sharing a new grandson: Noam Emanuel.  
Parents Hillel & Abigail Moskovits.

### *Acharon acharon chaviv:*

Our very own webmaster **Steven Bernstein** and his wife **Ilana (Plavin) Bernstein** have become proud parents for the first time! Their son, born on Friday, August 11, 2006, at 10:43 in the morning, has been named Yeshaiah Simhah after a grandfather, but will be called Shai, in memory of Captain Shai Bernstein, an Israeli army officer who died in combat several days before the birth of their son.

#### NEW MARC RECORD:

050 \_4 \$aE176.1\$b.B47 2006  
 082 \_4 \$a973.099  
 100 1\_ \$aBernstein, Steven Jay,\$d1976-  
 245 10 \$aBaby boy Bernstein /\$cby Steven and  
 Ilana Bernstein.  
 260 \_\_ \$aNew York :\$bMontefiore Medical  
 Center,\$c2006.  
 300 \_\_ \$a7lbs., 8oz. ;\$c20.25 in.  
 500 \_\_ \$a"Both mother and child are doing well."  
 600 14 \$aBernstein, Baby boy,\$d2006-  
 700 1\_ \$aBernstein, Ilana,\$d1979-  
 856 42



NEW HOLDING: Shai & Daddy Bernstein

## A sach nachas to all!

**(Fall Conference, cont'd)**

and write for journals to attain teaching status and also work on research projects. In this age of "publish or perish," this aspect of publication can often devolve into muddled or redundant games with words or rehashing what someone published long ago. Yet there is much to be said for librarians' being scholarly as well as technologically proficient.

From models in Judaica librarianship like Moritz Steinschneider, Gershom Scholem, Abraham Freidus, Alexander Marx, and Chaim Vilsker, who were great scholars before they were technically skilled information brokers, we can see the importance of knowing what is in the books and journals rather than just knowing how to access them! These five scholar/librarians supervised countless dissertations and offered countless helpful guidance to researchers of their collections.

The importance of scholar/librarians' serving in libraries cannot be underestimated. For example, a patron who wants material on the Jews of Safed in the 16th century may go through an Athena catalog search in a synagogue or day school library and pull up only a few hits. However, a librarian who truly knows the subject well can offer so much more on the vibrant rabbinic culture of the time, including the works of the Remak, Rabbi Moshe Alschek, HaAri HaKodesh, or Chaim Vital. For the high school level a librarian familiar with Solomon Schechter's complete works can find the article hidden within his writings on the subject that

provides a good overview at an introductory level. However, a librarian who has not read Schechter's work might miss this overview. The scholar/librarian should not only publish but read widely and think creatively in order to cast a wide net in making reference questions a creative quest.

Dr. Sherby recommended joining librarian organizations and attending conferences. In addition, she stressed keeping the public and other institutional members aware of what the librarian is doing and what is happening in the library. This increased visibility of the library can benefit the library and its users. Going to conferences and networking allows one to bring ideas back and refresh oneself.



**DR. LOUISE SHERBY:** "*The importance of scholar/librarians cannot be underestimated.*"

***Shared Worlds, Shared Mission***

In Part 2, "Development on a Shoestring," Naomi Steinberger--Director of Library Services, Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary--spoke on the importance of a librarian's resourcefulness. In an all too common scenario, a librarian may have to know how to maximize the limited funds allocated to an area within the library budget.

Firstly, Naomi stressed that staff development should be part of the library's mission. Staff development is essential for several reasons: all staff members need to be aware of what is going on in all sections of the library; staff development enriches the work environment; staff development improves service to the library's patrons; and finally, staff development improves both individual and organizational performance.

What constitutes staff development? Is it only ex-

sive conferences and seminars? Who is the one selected to attend these seminars, and how often? When funds are limited, so are these opportunities. Several suggestions were given for ways in which more people could be involved in professional development without exponentially expanding the library's budget.

Firstly, staff must share with each other. If someone attends a conference on a particular topic, it is incumbent upon that person to report back to those members of the staff who could not attend.

Secondly, there should be a committee for staff development, and in-house workshops can be given whereby staff members can share valuable expertise in a variety of special areas, or simply give an update of new developments and projects within a particular department of the library. Staff members should and can learn from one another.



**NAOMI STEINBERGER:** *"Staff development should be part of a library's mission."*

A new method of staff development, the "webinar" or online seminar, was discussed. Staff members, individually or as a group, can enroll in

these on a variety of topics. A great deal can be learned by sitting in front of the computer screen in an office--admittedly not as much fun as attending a conference, but cheaper and less time consuming!

Naomi followed her presentation with a "staff development exercise." The large group of attendees was divided into groups of 6 or 7 librarians from various institutions. Each group was asked to answer 2 questions: "What do you need to learn?" and "Who can help you?" The answers covered a wide array, including time management, public relations, fundraising, online databases, technology, and educational programs. The possibilities for help ranged from co-workers and experts in other departments of the institution (non-librarians), to virtual conferences and webinars.

One of the attendees, Zvi Muskal of the United Nations Library, mentioned the "knowledge sharing" intranet that is in place at the UN. All librarians are encouraged to check the intranet daily for conference reports, lists of events, lists of vendors, and other bits of information that have been posted for the benefit of all members of the community for their "professional development."

### *All Together Now*

Liza Stabler of Temple Emanu-El, who kindly filled in for Adele Bildersee, spoke about "Reaching Out Beyond the Library: The Community Network." Among the aspects of networking, she discussed networking within one's own institution, staffing as an element of networking, and a project she has just launched at Congregation Emanu-El which shows the advantages of networking.

Liza began by proposing some questions to highlight the necessity of getting to know the people beyond the library:

1. Do you the librarian have contact with other developments in your institution?
2. What is your relationship with the administration / patrons / students / faculty / parents / board of trustees / donors / volunteers / parents' association, etc.?
3. How many of the groups listed above have even a foggy notion of what the library has to offer and how it functions?
4. Are you included in faculty/staff meetings on a regular basis?

5. What do you do to make the necessary connections within your institution or with constituents outside the library?

Networking is a great form of marketing and publicity but it takes energy--and persistence. It's also a real survival tactic. Libraries are rarely profit centers, and every now and again someone on the Board or Administration will wonder if there's even a need for a library. Networking within the institution just in the course of doing one's job can be frustrating. It's really important to know the institution's structure and understand how it works.

For example, Liza pointed out, learn the fundraising policies. Get to know the development people and work with them. Offer the various constituents planning and programs that they find useful and that fit into their vision of what they are trying to do. Young families, for instance, might like a Storytime calendar that goes out in their mailings and lists of resources for various holidays. The religious school can be targeted at the first annual faculty meeting to push the library. As each

*(Cont'd on pg. 8)*



**LIZA STABLER:** "It's really important to know the institution's structure and understand how it works."

(cont'd from pg. 7)

class comes, send a note to the teacher asking if he or she would like anything special for the class. Each new teacher, in the library while his or her class is busy at work, can be given a quick library tour and invited to take out books.

An institution's parents' organization, nursery school teachers, Men's Club, book groups, or museum can be targeted for similar treatment. A sign that the library has made progress in its visibility is that the librarian is invited to join various committees to rethink the curriculum or goals for a unit of the institution. These meetings provide the opportunity to work with building-wide staff members.

Liza gave an example of networking with the museum director. Several years ago, at the approach of the 350th anniversary of the Jewish settlement in the United States, she began working with Elka Deitsch, the senior curator of the Herbert and Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica at the Temple. At the time, the Temple had a half dozen different lecture series and public programs, all administered and scheduled as though the others didn't exist. Elka and Liza, both solos--the lone professionals in each department--pooled their budgets to bring Prof. Jonathan Sarna to the Temple to launch the 350th celebration.

Another good way to network is to lunch. The librarian can be a lady/gentleman who lunches for the good of the library. But, Liza warned, don't just

go out and sit with your friends; rather, try to get to know as many people as you can. .

Liza herself is the only paid staff member for the library with 30 or so volunteers. She found, from the very start, that developing volunteer involvement is a crucial part of her job and that volunteers are actually a community issue and responsibility. Part of her mission is to provide meaningful activities for the volunteers. Temple Emanu-El members are owed the privileges of membership, one of which is being a library volunteer. Volunteers often provide the library with excellent PR and spread goodwill. Because they often are members of other committees in the institution, they enhance networking, thereby helping to mitigate the library's isolation.

Moreover, they can be very helpful in turning the sticky wheels of institutional resistance. One of the volunteers, also on the board of the Women's Auxiliary, has helped explain to the Board the importance of cooperating with the library on certain projects that the administration was promoting.

In 2000, Liza began the custom of the Volunteer Recognition Reception. When she realized that many of the library volunteers were also docents in the Museum, she networked with Elka Deitsch, who invited her to include the docents in the event. It has now become a popular custom.

Of course, there are challenges involved in every sort of staffing. The librarian must make a point of finding out who can or will do what! Some members can't do much but will just sit at the front desk. Some don't play well with others but can't be fired. Some come in order to find important tasks to do. All have their quirks, but with patience, Liza finds a place for them in the library routine.

The ultimate exercise in networking was having the entire congregation read the same book over the course of a year, *Maimonides* by Sherwin Nuland, and centering programming around it. This journey of learning was an opportunity to work across boundaries and an experience in congregation and community building. The challenges included choosing an appealing book, scheduling, writing the brochure, and getting all the constituents to participate. Networking paid off when the idea was brought to a new board president and head administrator, then to a small meeting, then a larger meeting with all constituents, and then the heads of all the institutional units. When everyone was on board, the reaction was highly positive.

Programming included lectures on Maimonides (Rambam), his world, medieval Jewish philosophy,

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**(Fall Conference, cont'd)**

an evening with Sherwin Nuland, and appearances by other authors discussing their works on Maimonides. Mitzvah Day provided an opportunity to pick up Tzedakah canisters featuring quotations from Maimonides on giving charity. The canisters, available in adult and children's versions, were created such that they could be decorated and personalized. All the money collected was sent anonymously, in the spirit of Maimonides, to The Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel.

Other initiatives that were taken up by projects in the Religious School included the creation of a *genizah* [storage area for worn books] and the

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Photos by TINA WEISS, Judaica Librarian, Klau Library, Hebrew Union College

**(Museum, cont'd)**

the show is finally operative, the Museum is featuring a game called 2x2 Memorebus.

"This game especially appeals to the non-Jewish students," explained Ms. Shuter. Tour groups include many non-Jewish children from secular or public schools, who number among New York's diverse ethnic communities. "The goal of the Museum is outreach and tolerance. We want the kids to make that connection."

The way to connection is through interactive media. Patrons, children and adult alike, are expected to join in, to get a hands-on lesson that engages the hearts, not just the minds. By making Judaism a visceral experience for the viewer, it becomes powerfully introduced or reinforced.

In another room children get to don costumes to recreate famous biblical scenes and personages out of storybooks like *Kind Little Rivka*. Again the emotions are engaged, and the young readers become one with history.

**Lesson & Continuity**

The interactive experience permeates the entire Museum above. The fourth floor, still under construction, will be devoted to Jewish history and the different eras. The third floor is a walking lesson in the Jewish Sabbath and holidays. In the Simchat Torah section, a switch opens up a holy ark, re-

giving of charity according to Maimonides' Eight Levels of Charity. The Emanu-El League held an evening of Moroccan food to enjoy some of the same foods Maimonides might have eaten while he lived in Morocco. The Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning offered an eight-week course on Maimonides' conception of law.

All these activities, and the panelists' insights, show how networking and cooperation can be a valuable, sought-after goal within an institution among the different and complementary units. It behooves us, as librarians, to use this method to integrate the library into the institution as a whole.

vealing a Torah scroll, while a wooden carousel of figures start to spin and dance. On Shavout, lights flash off and on over Sinai, as flowers emerge from underground.

In the Shabbat section, a young mother from Borough Park was seen chattering in Yiddish to her son, who had just crawled out from under a giant *challah*. The Museum attracts Jewish families from other Orthodox neighborhoods.

After a stroll through a "supermarket" filled with an assortment of real-looking kosher foods and guides to blessings, Ms. Shuter began the final leg of the tour.

On the fifth floor, walls were lined with glass exhibits of the Jewish lifecycle. Here too, the interactive experience reigns. A miniature golf course beginning with hole one (birth) takes the patron through the major stages of Jewish life (bar/bat mitzvah, marriage, childrearing) all the way to hole nine (death and burial).

Giant candles, history timelines, game shows and crafts--the Jewish Children's Museum offers it all in one dynamic package. For those who come, be it for help in homework or a chance to sit inside a *sukkah*, the Library of the Jewish Children's Museum is there to help the Museum fulfill its mission. The result? Love of Torah, appreciation of heritage -- and, above all, a very good time.

*The Jewish Children's Museum is the site for NYMA's  
Spring 2007 Conference. Please contact NYMA for more details.*

*NYMA encourages all AJL members from and other areas adjacent to New York City without their own official chapters (such as New Jersey) to become part of our NYMA Chapter.*

*We welcome you to participate in all our Conferences and Workshops. Upon payment of \$10 dues for the year you will be eligible for all our publications and receive notices of all our activities.*

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