

ACCREDITATION

The Association of Jewish Libraries Synagogues, Schools and Centers Division offers a valued certificate of accreditation to libraries that qualify. Accreditation is encouraged to help libraries achieve a high professional level in accordance with the SSC Guidelines. Contact: accreditation@jewishlibraries.org

CONFERENCE

Each summer, AJL holds a conference to give members opportunities for networking and professional development. Librarians, authors, scholars, and other experts from around the world present topics of interest to attendees.

HASAFRAN

The AJL listserv is a forum for discussion of all topics regarding Judaica librarianship and literature. <http://tinyurl.com/hasafran>

BLOG AND SOCIAL MEDIA

“People of the Books,” the AJL Blog at jewishlibraries.org/blog, posts official AJL business and events. AJL’s Facebook page at facebook.com/jewishlibraries and Twitter account at [@jewishlibraries](https://twitter.com/@jewishlibraries) share library and literary news from within AJL and beyond. The monthly Jewish Book Carnival rounds up posts of interest to our membership.

MEMBERSHIP

Association of Jewish Libraries membership is open to individuals and libraries, library workers, and library supporters.

There are two divisions within AJL: RAS (Research Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections) and SSC (Schools, Synagogues, and Centers).

The diverse membership includes libraries in synagogues, JCC's, day schools, yeshivot, universities, Holocaust museums, and the Library of Congress.

Members represent North America and beyond, including Argentina, China, the Czech Republic, Holland, Israel, Italy, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

AJL welcomes members of any religious faith or affiliation.

For more information on membership: membership@jewishlibraries.org



ASSOCIATION *of* JEWISH LIBRARIES

האגודה לספריות יהודיות

SSC DIVISION

The [Schools, Synagogues, and Centers](#) division supports and advocates for the essential roles of Judaic libraries as valued parts of our communities. We provide our members with important tools that enable them to access information in a wide variety of formats. We strive to promote and implement programs that serve to expand knowledge of the literature, religion, and culture of Judaism.

SSC fosters professional growth of its members through the AJL annual conference, professional networking, and social media teaching tools.



www.jewishlibraries.org

SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD

The Sydney Taylor Book Award memorializes Sydney Taylor, author of the Jewish-American classic series *All-of-a-Kind Family*. It is presented annually to outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience. Established by AJL in 1968, the award encourages the publication and widespread use of quality Judaic literature. It is hoped that official recognition of such books will inspire authors, encourage publishers, inform parents and teachers, and intrigue young readers. The committee also hopes that by educating readers about the Jewish experience, they can engender pride in Jewish readers while building bridges to readers of other backgrounds.

Gold medals are presented in three categories: **Younger Readers**, **Older Readers**, and **Teen Readers**. Honor Books are awarded silver medals, and Notable Books are named in each category. Winning titles are announced each January, with a Blog Tour following in February to celebrate and promote gold and silver medalists. Winning authors and illustrators receive their prizes at a gala banquet at the annual AJL conference each summer.

SYDNEY TAYLOR MANUSCRIPT AWARD

The Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award was established by Sydney's husband Ralph Taylor to encourage aspiring authors of Jewish children's books. It was first awarded in 1985. While AJL cannot guarantee publication, the award carries prestige in the publishing world and several Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award winners have subsequently been published.

A cash award of \$1,000 is given for the best fiction manuscript appropriate for readers ages 8-11, written by an unpublished author. The book must be a work of fiction in English with universal appeal of Jewish content for both Jewish and non-Jewish readers. It should reveal positive aspects of Jewish life.

Winning titles for both awards are listed at jewishlibraries.org.



PUBLICATIONS

The AJL Advocacy Kit includes materials adaptable to any locale, to help stakeholders advocate for the importance of their own library.

AJL Reviews, published quarterly, contains reviews of a wide variety of scholarly and popular works for children and adults.

Jewish Values Finder identifies the Jewish values found in books written for Jewish children and teens in English or in translation. This online database is searchable by value, author, title, etc. and can be limited by age-range and date.

Bibliography Bank was created to facilitate the sharing of bibliographies on Judaic topics among AJL members and the public at large.

AJL wiki is your one-stop knowledge base for everything related to Judaica librarianship.

Creating a Collection: A Basic Booklist for Judaic Libraries 6th ed. by Marlene Schiffman et al (2015). This annotated subject bibliography and guide helps libraries develop a core collection in a synagogue, school, or community center.