



## AJL'S DIGITAL CONFERENCE 2020

*Staying Connected*

**JUNE 28-JULY 2, 2020**

Association of Jewish Libraries:  
The Leading Authority on Judaic Librarianship

**JEWISHLIBRARIES.ORG**

### Sunday, June 28, 2020

**11:00amEDT**      **How to Use Socio & Zoom**

**12:00pmEDT**      **Newcomer's Welcome**

Get the most out of our first virtual conference and meet some new friends! Join AJL member and past president, **Heidi Rabinowitz**, as she explains tips on the best ways to enjoy an AJL conference.

**2:00pmEDT**      **AJL Virtual Roundtable**

Join AJL President **Dina Herbert** and President-Elect **Kathy Bloomfield** to check-in, support one another during this turbulent time, and continue "Staying Connected."

**4:00pmEDT**      **AJL Council Meeting**

### Monday, June 29, 2020

**11:00amEDT**      **Keynote Address**

"Who Wants to Be a Jewish Reader? A Discussion on Reviewing Jewish Books" with **Jonathan Kirsch** and **Adam Kirsch**, moderated by **Erika Dreifus**.

**12:30pmEDT**      **Schools, Synagogues, Centers, and Public Libraries (SSCPL) Division Meeting**  
**Research Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections (RAS) Division Meeting**

**2:00pmEDT**      **AJL General Membership Meeting**

Presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to **Robert Singerman**, the Sydney Taylor Body of Work Award to **Lesléa Newman** and the Fanny Goldstein Merit Award to **Zachary Baker** as well as the installation of the new AJL Board and information about the "Put-My-Library-on-the-Map Hackathon" with **Neil Frau-Cortes** (University of Maryland Libraries).

**6:00pmEDT**      **Book Club Facilitators Roundtable**

Do you lead a Jewish book club? Join **Lisa Silverman** (Burton Sperber Jewish Community Library of the American Jewish University) to discuss best practices, share your tried & true book club favorites, and learn about new resources to enhance your discussions.

**7:00pmEDT**      **Book Discussion: *On Division* by Goldie Goldbloom**

Join **Rachel Kamin** and the members of the AJL Fiction Award Committee for a discussion of the 2020 Award Winner, *On Division* by Goldie Goldbloom.



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**Tuesday, June 30, 2020**

**11:00amEDT**

### **Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners, Part I**

Meet the Sydney Taylor Honor Award Winners, including **Amy June Bates** (*Gittel's Journey*), **Debbie Levy** (*The Key from Spain*), **Andrew Maraniss** (*Games of Deception*), **Sofiya Pasternack** (*Anya and the Dragon*), and **Victoria Ortiz** (*Dissenter on the Bench*), and hear from the committee members (**Rebecca Levitan**, **Rena Citrin**, **Shoshana Flax**, **Marjorie Ingall**, **Sylvie Shaffer & Rivka Yerushalmi**) about their favorite books of the year.

### **RAS Awards: The AJL Judaica Reference Award and the Judaica Bibliography Award**

**William Gross** will receive the Bibliography Award for *Catalog of Catalogs: A Bibliography of Temporary Exhibition Catalogs Since 1876 that Contain Items of Judaica* and **Noam Sienna** will receive the Reference Award for *A Rainbow Thread: An Anthology of Queer Jewish Texts from the First Century to 1969*. **Marcin Wodzinski**, whose *Historical Atlas of Hasidism* won the 2018 AJL Reference Award, will also discuss his work.

**12:30pmEDT**

### **Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners, Part II**

Meet the Sydney Taylor Book Award Winners **Sue Macy & Stacy Innerst** (*The Book Rescuer*), **R.J. Palacio** (*White Bird*), and **Rachel DeWoskin** (*Someday We Will Fly*).

### **Cataloging Updates**

"RDA 'Oy Vey' Copy and Complex Cataloging in the Languages of Judaism" with **Elizabeth Fedden** (Leo Baeck Institute) and the Library of Congress Israel and Judaica Section Cataloging Update with **Yisrael Meyerowitz**, **Gail Shirazi**, **Jeremiah Aaron Taub**, and **Galina Teverovsky**.

**2:00pmEDT**

### **Fresh Lit: Recent & Forthcoming Adult Jewish Fiction**

How can you keep up with all the Jewish fiction published in a year? Come hear from the members of the AJL Fiction Award committee (**Rosalind Reisner**, **Merrily Hart**, **Rachel Kamin**, **Laura Schutzman & Sheryl Stahl**) and meet the 2020 AJL Fiction Award Winner **Goldie Goldbloom**, author of *On Division*.

### **Collecting & Collections**

"Cataloging and Collecting of Unconventional Materials" with **Daniel Stuhlman**, "Discoveries in the Fragments Collection in the 2019 Moldovan Gift" with **Louis (Chaim) Meiselman** (University of Pennsylvania Libraries), and "*Zekhor yemot olam, binu shenot dor va-dor*" with **David B. Levy** (Touro College)

**7:00pmEDT**

**Maidels & Dreidels & Ladles, Oh My! The Journey of a Jewish Children's Book Writer with Lesléa Newman**, Sydney Taylor Body of Work Award Winner and author of *Gittel's Journey*, a Sydney Taylor Honor Award Winner.



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## Wednesday, July 1, 2020

8:30amEDT

### **International Librarians' Roundtable**

11:00amEDT

### **Building Bridges in the Day School Library**

“Librarians and Teachers: Integrating Modern Jewish Literature into Jewish Education” with **Sarah Feldman** (Gann Academy) and “Infusing Jewish Values into a Digital Citizenship Curriculum” with **Julie Koven Levine** (The Rashi School).

### **International Judaica Collections Spanning the Globe, Part I**

The National Library of Israel (**Michal Gruenwald**), Jewish Art and Life Wing at The Israel Museum, Jerusalem (**Anna Nizza-Caplan**); Russian State Library (**Ekaterina Oleshkevich**), Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives (**Zsuzsanna Toronyi**), and Library of the Rabbinical Seminary, Budapest (**Balazs Tamasi**).

12:30pmEDT

### **Jewish Librarians in Secular Libraries**

Learn from four librarians in the field – **Robbin Friedman** (Chappaqua Library), **Susan Kusel** (Temple Rodef Shalom), **Rebecca Levitan** (Baltimore County Public Library) and **Sylvie Shaffer** (Capitol Hill Day School) – about the special challenges of being a Jewish librarian at a secular institution.

### **International Judaica Collections Spanning the Globe, Part II**

Alliance Israelite Universelle, Paris (**Jean-Claude Kuperminc**), Ets Hayim Library, Amsterdam (**Heide Warncke**), Braginsky Collection, Zurich (**Emile Schrijver**), Goethe University, Frankfurt (**Kerstin von der Krone**), and the British Library (**Ilana Tahan**).

2:00pmEDT

### **Why Social Media Matters to Readers & Writers and What Librarians Need to Know**

An informative program with “The Good Book Fairy” **Lauren Margolin** and educator & author **Liza Wiemer** about the impact social media has on what people read, what it takes to become a reviewer readers rely upon, what it means to be an influencer and how book reviewers expose and share problematic issues found in books and how this information is transformative.

### **Archives, Old & New**

“Partnership on the Prairie” with **Kate Dietrick** (University of Minnesota, Upper Midwest Jewish Archives) and “Collecting Kentucky Jewish History: Covenant and Collaboration” with **Sarah Dorpinghaus** (University of Kentucky Libraries), **Heather Fox** (University of Louisville), and **Abby Glogower** (Jewish Community Archives at the Filson Historical Society).

7:00pmEDT

### **Library Advocacy Conversation**

“Do They Know Your Worth? Showcasing Your Value in the Library and How AJL Can Help” with **Sean Boyle**, Librarian at the Jewish Day School of the Lehigh Valley and Chair of the Advocacy Committee for AJL.



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## **Thursday, July 2, 2020**

**11:00amEDT**

### **Listening & Learning about Diversity in Jewish Literature for Children & Teens**

Join **Aviva Brown** (author), **Esme Raji Codell** (librarian/author/blogger), **Angelica Ruiz** (synagogue librarian) and **Joni Sussman** (Kar-Ben Publishing) to discuss issues of diversity within modern children's literature: why it's important, how it is being achieved, who can/should write it, and how Jewish kidlit fits in.

### **Collecting & Cataloging in 2020**

"Collecting on Covid-19 in the Jewish Community" with **Yoel Finkelman** (National Library of Israel) and **Shuli Berger** (Yeshiva University) and OCLC Updates with **Nathan Putnam**.

**12:30pmEDT**

### **Reviewing and Evaluating Picture Books**

What makes an excellent picture book for young readers? What are some great picture books of 2019 and 2020? **Betsy Bird & Brian Wilson** (Evanston Public Library) will discuss what they look for when choosing books for programs or one-on-one sharing, for best of the year presentations, and for their blog reviews.

### **Digital Projects in Jewish Studies**

Stern College Natural Language Processing Lab (**Josh Waxman**), Penn Judaica DH Overview (**Emily Esten**), and Linked Open Data for Jewish Studies from the DiJeSt project (**Kepa Rodriguez, Yael Netzer & Sinai Rusenik**).

**2:00pmEDT**

### **Funny, They Don't Look Jewish! A Live Comic Book Podcast**

Explore the Jewish content in comic books with podcast hosts **Brandon Bernstein & Henry Bernstein** who make the case that superhero comics are an excellent avenue to get young people to read, as well as an untapped tool to explore Jewish identity in a positive, thought-provoking and inclusive way.

### **Documenting Global Jewish Communities**

"Beyond the Holocaust: Studying Global Jewish History Through the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive" with **Deborah Margolis** (Michigan State University), "Reconsidering Library Standards to Capture the World of Ladino Publishing" with **Makena Mezistrano** (University of Washington), and "Displaced Archives in the Study of the Western Sephardic Diaspora" with **Amalia S. Levi** (The HeritEdge Connection, Barbados).

**7:00pmEDT**

### **Cocktail Hour with Brain Bash Trivia!**

Celebrate the end of the conference with an exciting, interactive trivia event! There will be prizes! Bring your own beverage and/or munchies and encourage all of your AJL friends to join the fun.