



HEADQUARTERS

MAY 18 1983

LIBRARY

JEWISH LIBRARIANS CAUCUS AT ALA CONFERENCE

BUSINESS MEETING

June 26, Sunday evening, 8 to 10 P.M. Topic: Present status and future directions of the JLC. At the Midwinter meeting in San Antonio, we began exploring such issues as: What would we like to see the JLC be? How can the JLC become stronger and more visible within the library community? What should be its major emphases during the next 5 years? What kind of structure/organization is needed to most effectively carry out these ends?

--- Please come and participate ---

TOUR THE SKIRBALL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY WITH US

June 28, Tuesday afternoon, 2 to 4 P.M. Skirball Museum and Library of Judaica at Hebrew Union College. 3077 University Avenue, LA. Contact person -- Natalie, tel. (213) 749-3424. Public transportation is available to the museum and the group will meet there. The tour is open to all librarians attending the Conference.

JLC MEMBERS INVITED TO ATTEND ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LIBRARIES CONVENTION

The AJL has invited us to attend the 18th annual AJL Convention, June 19-22/23 on the R.M.S. Queen Mary in Long Beach Harbor, approximately an hour south of L.A. This is immediately prior to the ALA Convention. Much of the AJL programming should be of interest to JLC members, e.g., the role of Community and Federation Librarians is similar to the role of public librarians; day schools are similar to public schools; micro-computer sessions will appeal to many; the panels and Jewish studies topics will be of interest as will be the Exhibit Hall with Judaica exhibitors and teaching exhibits and programming.

JLC Officers 1982-83

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Articles, letters to
the editor, and items
of interest are always
welcome.

CONCENTRATION CAMP LIBERATORS PARTICIPATE
IN HILLEL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at Boston University is working on an oral history project, "Liberators Remembered." At a time when many are trying to deny the occurrence of the Holocaust, Hillel believes that eyewitness accounts of the atrocities must be preserved. Student volunteers began working on the project in the fall of 1980. They began to locate WWII veterans in the greater Boston area, interviewed these men about their participation in the liberation, and established an archive of tapes, transcripts, and memorabilia. Approximately 50 veterans have been interviewed, and reactions varied. While some were filled with anger and disbelief, others rationalized the existence of the camps by relating them to the entire war experience. Nevertheless, most soldiers felt that their compassion for other people was intensified. Hillel hopes to use the testimonies of the veterans as an educational resource. One veteran said: "It was the single most disturbing event of my lifetime...The more people are informed, the less likely that government can get away with murder."

MAGNES MUSEUM OF BERKELEY HONORS RAOUL WALLEMBERG

The Magnes Museum of Berkeley, Calif. (which the JLC visited during the ALA Conference in 1982), has issued an impressive new medal honoring Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat whose humanitarian efforts helped save the lives of tens of thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Hungary during the closing stages of World War II. The bronze medal represents a labor of love for its designer, Marika Somogyi of Berkeley, whose life was touched directly by Mr. Wallenberg's work. Mrs. Somogyi's parents and future husband all escaped the Nazis in wartime Budapest with assistance from Mr. Wallenberg.

YIVO CREATES ARCHIVE OF RARE JEWISH MUSIC RECORDINGS

Jewish music records of the past will soon be audible in a new public listening facility at YIVO and will in time also be offered for loan to the public. Thanks to a gift from the Weinstein family, YIVO is establishing the Max and Frieda Weinstein Archive of YIVO Sound Recordings to make them fully accessible to researchers, performers, students, teachers and lovers of Jewish music both here and abroad. Future projects include a series of albums featuring highlights from the music collection. The first in the series, Klezmer Music 1910-1942: Recordings from the Yivo Archives, was prepared by Henry Sapoznik and recently won the National Association of Independent Record Manufacturer's Award in the field of world music.

NEH GRANT TO HADASSAH

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a grant of \$80,000 to Hadassah toward organizing and developing its archives, according to Frieda Lewis, Hadassah president.

COMBINED JEWISH CATALOGUE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH BOOK PUBLISHERS

The AJBP has published a Combined Jewish Catalogue which contains descriptions of more than 200 important Jewish books by 25 of America's most prestigious general and Jewish publishers. In it you will find a vast variety of recently published Jewish books ranging the philosophic to the juvenile, from the traditional to the ultra-modern. Also included is an essay by Ester Cohen entitled, "Jews and Books." The AJBP is offering the catalogue free of charge. There is a charge for mailing and handling. For more information, please write to the AJBP, 838 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10021 or call (212) 249-0100.

ADOPT A SOVIET FAMILY

Members of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews are now being asked by that organization to participate in the Adopt-A-Family program. The program allows an American family to be matched with a Refusenik family. The American family writes letters, sends birthday cards and tells the Refusenik family about American home life. The adopting family is asked to send copies of all their correspondence to the national UCSJ office where the adoptee Refusenik file can be updated. For more information, write Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, 1411 K Street, NW, Suite 402, Washington, DC 20005.

ISRAEL'S PRESIDENT VISITS THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Yitzhak Navon, then President of Israel, visited the Library of Congress on January 6. He was greeted by Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boortstein and other Library officials and escorted to the Librarian's office where he signed the official guest book and he and Dr. Boorstin exchanged several gifts. In honor of the occasion, the staff of the Hebraic section assembled an exhibit of rare Hebraica and materials relating to the Holy Land and to Mr. Navon's special interest, Sephardic culture. These included manuscripts of Hebrew verses from the Bible in Arabic script dating from around the year 1000, a Karaite Bible epitome from the 11th or 12th century, and a fragment of an early Hebrew maqama.

Hebrew incunabula on view included the earliest printed edition of any part of the Hebrew Bible, Psalms with the commentary of David Kimhi, thought to be printed in Bologna, 1447; the very first copy of the first work to appear on the press of Gershom Soncino -- celebrated of early Hebrew printers -- Moses of Coucy's Sema'g (Soncino, 1489); and a Hebrew incunable bound in a leaf removed from a Hebrew medieval codex, Joseph Albo's Sefer ha-'Ikarim (Soncino, 1485). Other books, documents and correspondence, photographs, art objects, and artifacts rounded out the exhibit.

"THE 10 MOST MEMORABLE CHILDREN'S BOOKS ON JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE"

After completing a bibliography of 500 titles on this subject, Enid Davis (an author and a children's librarian with the Saratoga Public Library in Calif.) in Emergency Librarian (Sept.-Oct. 1982) gives her "Academy Awards":

1. Davidson, Margaret. The Golda Meir Story. Scribner, 1981. -- A highly readable biography. Grades 4-7.
2. Forman, James. The Survivor. Farrar, 1976. -- A haunting story of a young man who survives the death camps during World War II. Grades 7+.
3. Frank, Anne. Anne Frank: The Diary of A Young Girl. Doubleday, 1967. Revised edition -- The autobiography of a teenage victim of Nazi Germany. Grades 4+.
4. Kerr, Judith. When Hitler Stole The Pink Rabbit. Coward, 1972. -- The story of a child who flees from Hitler is a fitting novel to introduce the theme of the Holocaust to youngsters. Grades 4-6.
5. Meltzer, Milton. Never to Forget: The Jews Of The Holocaust. Harper, 1976. -- The most appropriate discussion of the Holocaust for older children and young adults. Grades 6+.
6. Richter, Hans P. Friedrich. Holt, 1970. Dell, pb. -- The memorable and chilling account of two friends, one Jewish, one not, and how Hitler changed their lives. Grades 4+.
7. Shulevitz, Yuri. The Magician: An Adaption From The Yiddish Of I.L. Peretz. Macmillan, 1978. -- A priceless picture book that features the prophet Elijah as a jaunty and clever magician. Grades Preschool to 3.
8. Simon, Solomon. The Wise Men Of Helm And Their Merry Tales; More Wise Men Of Helm And Their Merry Tales. Behrman, 1965. -- Yiddish folklore about the fools of Eastern Europe; delightfully silly. Grades 3-7.
9. Singer, Isaac Bashevis. Zlateh The Goat And Other Stories. Harper, 1966. -- Illustrated by Maurice Sendak, Singer's tales about Yiddish characters is already a classic. Grades 1+.
10. Suhl, Uri. Uncle Misha's Partisans. Four Winds, 1973. -- A thrilling account of the Russian partisans who joined the Jewish Resistance against Hitler. Grades 5+

"JEWS ARE NEWS"

In a letter to the London Jewish Chronicle, a reader writes: "News of a series of weekend raids by the Lebanese army on a Palestinian refugee hospital when soldiers seized drugs and equipment worth \$750,000...did not involve Israel, hence no banner headlines. A two-inch single column tucked away on p.6 of the London Times was devoted to a report of a massacre of 200 villagers in Guatemala. The soldiers burned houses to the ground, burned crops, machine-gunned the villagers. But this was in Guatemala, not Israel, therefore no front-page spread."

HERITAGE FOUNDATION REVIEWS LEBANON REPORTING

The Heritage Foundation reviewed all the evening-news broadcasts between June 3 and August 26, 1982, and concluded that the networks "fell far below the highest standards of American journalism." Their reporting, says the survey's author, Joshua Muravchik, was filled with inaccuracies, misinformation and imbalance. He was also critical of the networks' emphasis on Israeli censorship while ABC, CBS, and, most often, NBC did not mention the restrictions imposed by the PLO and Syrians.

The survey's examples included imprecise, exaggerated casualty figures for the PLO and Lebanese, issued without proper substantiation; a report by ABC's John McKenzie on Israeli "terror bombs" (they were nonexistent); a CBS report leading viewers to believe that the Israelis attacked a civilian sports stadium, when in fact it was a major PLO weapons depot; and NBC's Roger Mudd placing the capital of Israel in Tel Aviv instead of Jerusalem. The survey's strongest condemnation is reserved for NBC's John Chancellor and NBC co-anchor Roger Mudd; praised for their objective coverage were ABC's Hal Walker and Bill Seamans, and CBS's Don Kladstrup and anchorman Dan Rather.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

In the 25 years of its existence, the School has graduated 675 librarians and 65 archivists. Teaching and research in the School are based on a multi-disciplinary approach. According to Dr. Schidorsky, Director, the School emphasizes librarianship as a dynamic, multi-faceted profession, dedicated to the preservation, organization and dissemination of the records of human culture, past and present. As part of its continuing effort to keep pace with the latest technological advances, the School is establishing a computerized laboratory which will contain a micro-computer, CRT terminals and auxiliary devices to enhance teaching and research.

While the idea for a library school was first broached to the Seventh Zionist Congress in 1905 as part of the idea of creating a national library for the Jewish people in Palestine, it was not until 1947 that a practical plan for establishing a library school was worked out by Dr. Curt Wormann, who was to become the first Director of the new school. However, the events of 1947-48 -- which caused the Mount Scopus campus to be cut off from Jerusalem for 19 years -- meant that the program had to be postponed while the Jewish National and University Library reorganized itself in Jerusalem's western section. Finally, with the help of UNESCO, the Graduate School of Library and Archive Studies -- the only institution in Israel which confers a Master's Degree in library science -- was inaugurated.

ANTI-SEMITISM ON THE CAMPUSES

In May 1982, an anonymous campus newsletter published at the University of Maryland during fraternity week praised "anti-Semitic Hitlerism" and urged that flamethrowers be used against Jews. The newsletter, entitled TTTT, was once associated with the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, but current members deny that they have had anything to do with the current publication. The newspaper named a Delta Tau Delta "pledge," Roger L. Frisbee, as the "Man of the Month." Frisbee is facing assault and weapons charges stemming from an incident in March 1982 in which, according to campus police, he said "Heil Hitler" and then shot a 21-year old female student in the leg with a BB gun. The woman is the daughter of a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust.

"INSIDE: THE JEWISH EXPONENT MAGAZINE"; "AGADA"

Two reviews from Choice, December 1982:

Inside: The Jewish Exponent Magazine [v.1, no.1- . spring 1980- . Editor: Betty Steck, 226 S. 16th St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. q. \$8.] Inside is a lovely, colorful, well-edited magazine which combines features of both general and regional (Philadelphia area) Jewish interest. Recent articles have discussed Ed Asner as actor and activist, the problem of compulsive gambling, anti-Semitism at the U.N., Israeli filmmakers, Jewish women artists, Jewish juvenile delinquency, and the problems of Egyptian Jewry. Regional elements have appeared in articles on the Jews in colonial Philadelphia, gambling in Atlantic City, and the videotaping of local religious services. Regular departments include readers' letters, fashions, food, finance, travel, and sports, as well as reviews and listing of local restaurants. Inside is an informative and well-written publication with subscription possibilities for libraries with interests in Jewish culture and/or the Philadelphia area. Future issues deserve to be indexed in the Index to Jewish Periodicals.

Agada [v.1, no.1- . Summer 1981- . Editor: Reuven Goldfarb. Agada, 2020 Essex St., Berkeley, CA 94703. 3/yr. \$11.] Jewish literary magazine, combining excellent graphics and stories, poetry, and divrei Torah (words of teaching). Contents vary in quality. Some very good work alongside the sentimental or overly traditional statements endemic to ethnic-restricted journals.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dr. Rose Vainstein, a frequent contributor, wrote to inform our readers of the dates of the 1983 celebration of Jewish Book month: October 30 to November 30. She advises all of us to write the Jewish Book Council early for information on the availability of PR items for purchase, including book marks, posters, etc. The address is 15 E. 26th St., NY, NY 10010. As part of the celebration, the JLC Newsletter encourages school and public libraries to have displays, programs, etc., and to send us stories about the events. Dr. Vainstein also recommended a most useful guide for classroom use, Extremist Groups in the United States: A Curriculum Guide. The guide is a sizable publication of 300 pages and includes chapters on various hate groups, with sections on groups of both the extreme right and left. The guide, which has a useful bibliography, could be used by adult Jewish studies groups as well as junior and senior high schools (public and religious). The guide costs \$10 per copy including postage and handling and can be ordered by writing Publications Dept., Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 823 United Nations Plaza, NY, NY 10017.

LAROCHE CULT CALLED NEO-NAZI IN NEW STUDY

A new study, entitled Nazis Without Swastikas, written by Dennis King and published by the League for Industrial Democracy, maintains that that National Caucus of Labor Committees, a cult founded by Lyndon H. LaRouche, espouses "violent hatred of Jews, Judaism, Zionism, and the state of Israel." King asserts that the caucus evolved from a quasi-Marxist sect in the days of the New Left to an organization which has forged close links with the KKK and other anti-Semitic groups. According to King, the NCLC's newspaper, New Solidarity, has called for the establishment of a "Permanent Special Prosecutor's office" to prepare treason indictments against American Jews and pro-Zionist gentiles. (Jewish Week, 12/24/82)

THREE NEW TITLES FROM MICAH PUBLICATIONS

Fuchs, Dr. Esther. Encounters with Israeli Authors, pb. \$7.50.

A series of nine interviews with some of Israel's most famous writers: Gershon Shaked, Amelia Kahana-Carmon, S. Yizhar, Itamar Yazo-Kest, A.B. Yehoshua, Aaron Appelfeld, Aharon Megged, Yehudi Amichai, and Yoram Kaniuk. Besides the obvious literary interest in these writers, what makes the interviews compelling is that they address themselves to a variety of concerns: relationships with the Arabs, with other Jewish communities, their identities as Jews and/or Israelis, the problem of the Jewish immigrant in Israel, and the problem of writing in Hebrew; and they speak with Israeli candidness and lucidity and with an immediacy in their tone. Dr. Fuchs is well qualified to have undertaken these interviews. Herself an Israeli, she has been in the United States since 1976, during which time she earned a Ph.D. in Hebrew literature from Brandeis University.

Parkes, Dr. James. End of An Exile, pb. \$8.00.

First published in 1954, this is the first American publication of Dr. Parkes' classic study of Israel, the Jews, and the Gentile world. This publication can be regarded as an event and as a commemoration to this outstanding theologian who died in 1981 and who laid the foundation for present Christian-Jewish dialogue. In this work, tracing the five roots of Judaism and the relationship of the Diaspora to Zionism, Dr. Parkes makes clear his theological basis for Christian Zionism. The introduction was written by Roberta Kalechofsky and, expanding on Parkes' theological Zionism, contains some new and interesting ideas on that subject. The appendix is composed of articles about Parkes (who died in 1981) and his works by A. Roy Eckardt, Reinhold Neibuhr, Rose G. Lewis, Reverend Robert Everett, and Dr. Carl Hermann Voss.

The Jewish Cat Book --- A Different Breed. ed., Meir Rosenberg, pb., \$4.50.

Illustrated by Sara Feldman, the book appears to be in the familiar genre of cat book, but it is in a class by itself. Dedicated to a 10th century rabbi who, we believe, wrote the first "defense of the rights of animals," the book is serious, witty, and gentle. In the spirit of Aesop's Fables, the reflections are as much of human nature as of cat nature. The book is a compilation of proverbs and sayings from the Talmud, Yiddish proverbs and folklore, accompanied by illustrations designed in such a manner that each can be framed. The book will serve a particularly suitable educational purpose for Jewish children from the age of 10 to 14 who would benefit from this kind of introduction to the scope of traditional Jewish literature. The introduction, written by Roberta Kalechofsky, places the concerns and rights of animals within the Jewish tradition and the glossary of Biblical, Hebraic, Yiddish and Israel names compiled by her and suggested for cats are intended to be both thought-provoking and fun to read.

Encounters with Israeli Authors, End of An Exile, and The Jewish Cat Book--- A Different Breed! can be ordered from Micah Publications, 255 Humphrey St., Marblehead, MA 01945.

BOOK REVIEWS

Three new reference books of Jewish interest have recently appeared. They are very different, and serve to illustrate the range of materials available to librarians who are building collections of Jewish resources. One of the books is a scholarly bibliography most suited for an academic or research library. Another is a more popular biographical tool appropriate for a public or secondary school library. The third is a very personal guide for Jewish family celebrations. Leonard Prager's Yiddish Literary and Linguistic Periodicals and Miscellanies: Selective Annotated Bibliography (Darby, PA, published for the Association for the Study of Jewish Languages by Norwood Editions, 1982. 271p. \$22.50) is a listing of Yiddish periodicals (excluding dailies) wholly or partly literary in nature. It aims to provide an annotated guide to this material for librarians, collectors, students of Yiddish language, literature, folklore, and Jewish history. The criteria in choosing items for inclusion are carefully spelled out in the detailed introduction. The bibliography is placed in the broader context of Yiddish literary history. Entries, listed alphabetically by title and numbered consecutively, include romanized Yiddish title, subtitle, place of publication, publisher, dates and pagination of miscellanies, collation, editors, annotation, sources where the item is cited and repositories where the item can be found. There is a key to references and sources, as well as a key to repositories. The bibliography includes about 200 references to articles and reviews of specific periodicals included. The annotations are descriptive (generally 2 or 3 sentences), giving background, history, features of the periodical, and note the contributors. There are 5 indexes: titles, editors, contributors, places of publication and years of publication of miscellanies. In addition, special features include "Landmarks in the History of Yiddish Literary Periodicals", a chronological listing (1823 to 1979), and seven pages of references. The book is an interesting example of a computer-produced bibliography from the University of Haifa, Israel, and represents an important contribution to research in Jewish language and letters.

American Jewish Biographies (Lakeville Press, New York, Facts on File, 1982. 493p. \$39.95) is a compilation of biographical information on over 400 men and women "who have distinguished themselves either in American life or American Jewish life" and who have received public attention because of their achievements. The selection criteria used are that the individual be alive, a citizen of the United States, consider him or herself Jewish, and have made "a permanent contribution to life in this country" or be identified with a significant event, issue or movement. The research and writing was done by several journalists and writers. They are not identified, so that there is no way to ascertain their qualifications for such an undertaking. The accuracy and reliability of the information presented can therefore be called into question. Entries, arranged alphabetically, include brief (but incomplete) bibliographical references. There is a subject index which can be used to identify and read about, for example, Jewish physicists, journalists, actors, educators, etc. The brief introduction by Henry Feingold aims to place the biography in the context of American Jewish history. The book complements, rather than duplicates, the standard reference work on American Jewry, Who's Who in American Jewry. American Jewish Biography presents, in a more lengthy essay style format, information about the life, work, contributions and impact of each person considered, while Who's Who is a brief, concise listing with dates of work experience, publications, awards, memberships, etc. American Jewish Biographies can be seen to fill a niche in the area of biographical materials about Jews. Its coverage is broad, the format is convenient, and entries are clearly written for the popular reader. It can strengthen public as well as secondary school and community college library collections of Jewish reference materials.

BOOK REVIEWS, cont'd.

Arlene Rossen Cardozo's book, Jewish Family Celebrations: The Sabbath, Festivals and Ceremonies (New York, St. Martin's Press, 1982. 268p. \$17.50), explains the origins of the Jewish festivals, and includes recipes, blessings and songs for each occasion. It aims to provide Jewish families with a guide to participating in the cycle of Jewish celebrations. The work is comparable, but less detailed and scholarly, to Arthur Waskow's Seasons of Our Joy: A Handbook of Jewish Festivals (Bantam, 1982). It is also more personal, since the author, unlike Waskow (with a Havurah orientation,) uses examples from her own family to explain how the holidays are celebrated. After an opening section on the Shabbat, there is a chapter for each festival which are grouped by seasons of the year: ancient fall, winter and spring festivals, and modern spring festivals (Holocaust Day of Remembrance and Israel Independence Day). A section on the life cycle ceremonies -- birth, death, bar/bat mitzvah, weddings -- concludes the book. "Building the Family Bookshelf", an annotated selection of additional resources, a glossary of Hebrew terms, a bibliography, and indexes (songs, recipes, blessings, and subject/name) are additional useful features. The book is easy to use and is clearly and interestingly written. It offers a valuable, handy guide to Jewish customs and practices which would be a useful addition to public library collections, both reference and circulating. It also could be included in secondary school, community college, and college libraries, especially those serving Jewish users.

The three reviews were written by Susan Freiband, President of the Jewish Librarians Caucus.

JEWISH LIBRARY INSTITUTE GETS A COMPUTER

This from SIFRIA, a newsletter distributed to members of the L.I. - Association of Jewish Libraries, whose President just happens to be our own Sylvia Eisen.

Do you still have the impression that computers are high-tech WASPS? The Jewish Library Institute has a Hasidic computer. It writes in Hebrew (from right to left) and in English (from left to right). Sometimes it forgets and starts writing in English from right to left and Hebrew from left to right, and then "Oy Vey!" What a mess! What I like about Rabbi Naftali Halberstam's Computer is that it has real Jewish kup -- if you don't recall the exact entry word, don't worry! It will find the information anyway. That is because it was programmed by a young Computer Pro, who understands the psychology of rebbes, from whose libraries this extensive Hebrew-English database was drawn. (Printouts are available in Yiddish, also.) Another reason for its remarkable facility for variant recall is that 35 dictionaries have been programmed into it to account for the variety of spelling.

The computer is primarily used for genealogical research. For this it is recognized and praised. Whether its bibliographic function of cataloging and providing union access to rabbinic literature and secular Judaica for 700 basic classes and 18,000 different subject categories is as efficient as Rabbi Halberstam contends, remains to be seen. Certainly, its remarkable sorting powers make it an attractive tool.

At present, access to the computer is by subscription. If you wish further information, contact: Jewish Library Institute, Box FF, Brooklyn, NY, 11219 or phone (212) 435-0500.

HOLOCAUST CENTER IN DENVER

A Holocaust Awareness Institute has been established by the Center for Judaic Studies at Denver University to promote Holocaust education and commemoration in the Jewish community and to sensitize the general public about that era, according to Rabbi Stanley Wagner, Center director. Irving Goldenberg, acting director of the institute, said it would become "part of the growing network of Holocaust resource centers in major Jewish communities throughout the United States."

"THE JEWISH QUESTION" IN LIBRARY CATALOGING

by Sanford Berman

This is the fourth installment from Sanford Berman's paper. In the last three issues of the Newsletter, we looked at various aspects of the vocabulary and assignment problems. In this issue, Berman asks, "if this, then, is the sorry and even shameful state of Judaica subject cataloging, what can be done about it?" His answer follows below.

Well, there are two things: one is to lobby the Library of Congress, the source of most of our "outside copy," whether in the form of cards, MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) records, or CIP (Cataloging in Publication), and also the agency responsible for the world's principal English-language subject heading scheme, the "authority" for subject cataloging in most libraries. But don't expect instant results. And don't expect that LC, even if it were miraculously sensitized and reformed overnight, would be able to do certain things for your particular library. Which raises the second point: That the best way to improve subject access and equity in your own library is to locally undertake as many reforms as your resources allow. For instance, in no event can LC, no matter how enlightened, make necessary cross-references in your catalog. Or assign retrospective award or prize headings. You have to do it. Regardless of when LC abandons or alters JEWISH QUESTION, if you find the heading inaccurate and indefensible, you should eliminate it from your active subject thesaurus and recatalog the titles it has already been assigned to. If you get a new filmstrip on latke making and there's no "latke" heading in the LC subject list, it's up to you to devise and apply a suitable descriptor. If you want your catalog to show all of the Israeli drama, fiction, or poetry you've got -- not just anthologies -- you'll have to assign the relevant headings yourself to incoming or existing material because LC will probably never do so for novels, plays, and verse by single authors. This "do-it-yourself" approach may strike some as awfully tedious and even sinful, since it indisputably violates the holy canons of standardization and "follow-the-leader." However, the foregoing litany of neglect, if not abuse, should have demonstrated that the "leader" can't be wholly trusted. And what applies to local librarians can also apply to local library users. As consumers they should insist not only that their libraries stock Judaica, but also that it be fully and fairly cataloged so that a) the material can be easily found and used, and b) the catalog itself doesn't convey antisemitic messages.

The above selection was excerpted from a revised and updated version of a paper presented to the AJL Convention (1979). The original version was published in the author's Joy of Cataloging (Phoenix, AZ, Oryx Press, 1981).

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