

# The Jewish Librarians Caucus

## Newsletter



Jan. - Mar. 1984

Volume 8 Number 1

HEADQUARTERS

MAY 4 1984

LIBRARY

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have been pleased at the turnout for the Jewish Librarians Caucus meetings at the Los Angeles conference and at Midwinter in Washington, D.C. There is a lot of renewed interest in the Caucus and a lot of potential for heightening its visibility both within and outside of the American Library Association. Several good suggestions have been made for projects and publications to undertake. The time is very ripe for undertaking some of these projects. There is an increased interest and concern on the part of the American Library Association in ethnic and minority issues. There is much to be done in this area with many serious issues to discuss.

Show your support and commitment by joining us at the Jewish Librarians Caucus meetings at the annual ALA conferences or at Midwinter. We need your input and ideas. We are excited by the challenges that lie ahead.

### THE BUSINESS MEETING OF THE JEWISH LIBRARIANS CAUCUS AT THE DALLAS

CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD FROM 11:30 TO 12:30 ON TUESDAY, JUNE 26.

### THE AGENDA IS AS FOLLOWS:

- \*\* status of the Jewish Librarians Caucus -- relationship to the Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Round Table; future directions, goals and emphases;
- \*\* discussion of special projects and publications; formation of committees to work on these;
- \*\* reports from the Standing Committee on Subject Access; the Minority Concerns Committee; other relevant ALA committees and groups;
- \*\* election of secretary and any other needed officers;
- \*\* plans for the Midwinter meeting in Washington, D.C., January 1985.

Susan Freiband

Any questions or suggestions, contact Susan Freiband, (703) 521-4281. Her address is 4807 2nd Road, N. Arlington, VA 22203.

JLC Officers 1984-85

Susan Freiband, President  
Sylvia Eisen, Treasurer

Lillian Kahn, Editor  
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The Jewish Librarians Caucus Newsletter is published four times a year. The subscription rate is \$7.50/year.

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

The following is the tentative program for the 1984 Conference in Dallas:

MEETING: Tuesday June 26, 9:30-11:00 A.M. (program slot)  
Tuesday, June 26, 11:30-12:30 P.M. (business meeting slot)

OVERALL PROGRAM THEME OR PROGRAM TITLE

DOCUMENTING THE JEWISH AMERICAN EXPERIENCE  
-- ACADEMIC, PUBLIC, AND SPECIAL LIBRARY COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- 1) To inform librarians about kinds of materials available in academic, public and special libraries to document the Jewish American experience in this country.
- 2) To provide librarians with specific ideas about services that academic, public and special libraries can provide using these materials.
- 3) To raise the consciousness of librarians about the value and importance of Jewish American collections and services in academic, public and special libraries.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The program will take the form of a panel discussion with a librarian or librarians from academic, public and special libraries addressing the program theme, with an eye to satisfying the program objectives. Each will speak about 10 or 15 minutes, after which time the audience will be encouraged to ask questions or make comments.

Robert Sewell, Assistant to the Director of Library Collections, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will prepare and deliver a paper along the lines of "Judaica Collecting in Large Academic Libraries: Mapping Out the Territory". Debbie Rubin, Dallas Public Library, will handle the public library perspective, focusing on kinds of materials documenting the historical period surrounding the wave of Jewish immigration to this country in connection with the 1986 centennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty.

Any questions or suggestions, contact Susan Freiband, (703) 522-4281. Her address is 4807 2nd Road, N. Arlington, VA 22203.

THE GOALS OF THE JEWISH LIBRARIANS CAUCUS

During the business meeting of the Jewish Librarians Caucus at Midwinter, Susan Freiband, President of the Caucus, was asked to review the goals of our organization. In response, Susan has submitted the following list to the Newsletter. She notes that the first four goals date to the time when Cookie Lewis-Soldinger was Newsletter editor. Susan has added the last two.

1. To promote a sense of identity and community among Jewish librarians.
2. To provide a forum for discussion of issues that affect Jews as Jewish librarians.
3. To serve as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of Jewish library information.
4. To offer Jewish viewpoints toward issues that affect society and librarianship.
5. To provide guidance and help for librarians and others concerned with effectively meeting the needs and interests of Jewish library users; involved with providing Jewish resources and services in libraries.
6. To support and work together with other ethnic library groups and organizations within and outside the American Library Association to foster awareness about and sensitivity to the needs and interest of ethnic and minority librarians and library users.

AJL ANNUAL CONVENTION IN JUNE

The Association of Jewish Libraries will be holding its 19th annual convention in Atlanta, June 24-27. Sessions will be geared for the professional librarian in Jewish day schools, community, Federation, and synagogue libraries, as well as academic and research libraries. Some of the features are: the Awards banquet for best Jewish children's books for older and younger children and workshops in cataloging, media, programs, readers' guidance (storytelling, etc.), bulletin board displays, and basic librarianship for volunteer and non-professional library personnel. Computer applications to Judaica librarianship and decisions based on AACR2 are ongoing features at each AJL convention. For further information and registration, write: "Convention" c/o Ms. Hazel Karp, Hebrew Academy of Atlanta Library, 1892 N. Druid Hills Rd. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30319.

COLUMBIA GIVEN \$4.3 MILLION FOR JEWISH STUDIES

Columbia University recently received an anonymous gift of \$4.3 million to support the teaching of Jewish studies at the University. Columbia officials said the grant was the largest the University has received for Jewish studies and one of the largest such gifts in the country. The only condition attached to the anonymous gift was that a professorship in American Jewish history be established. The money will also be used to support a second professorship (in Hebrew and comparative literature), to endow the Center for Israel and Jewish Studies and to support Judaica collections in the Columbia libraries.

35th ANNUAL JEWISH BOOK AWARDS

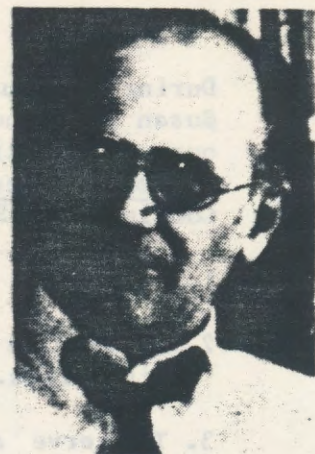
Famed photographer Roman Vishniac has been named the winner of the 1984 National Jewish Book Award in Visual Arts for his volume, A Vanished World, it was announced by Blu Greenberg, president of the JWB Jewish Book Council.

Elie Wiesel wrote the foreword to A Vanished World, the first book to offer a comprehensive selection of Vishniac's celebrated photographs of the Jews of Eastern Europe, taken between 1934 and 1939.

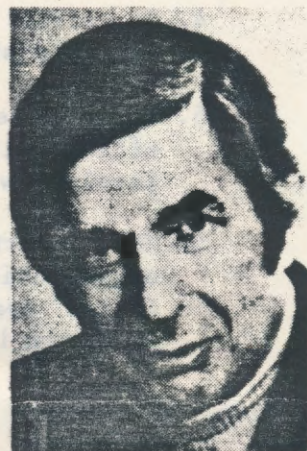
Recognized as the most prestigious awards in the field of Jewish literature, the 35th annual Jewish Book Awards will be presented at a public ceremony on May 17, at 7 p.m. at the New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd St.

The categories and the winners of the 1984 awards are:

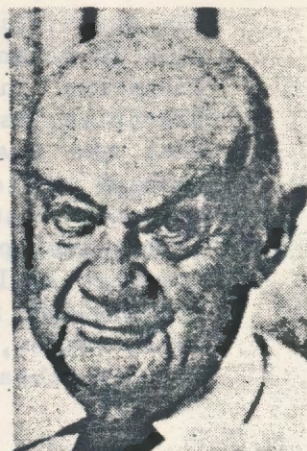
- Visual arts Roman Vishniac, A Vanished World
- Fiction Arthur A. Cohen, An Admirable Woman
- Holocaust Emil Dorian, The Quality of Witness: A Rumanian Diary 1937-1944
- Israel Peter Gross, Israel in the Mind of America
- Jewish thought Steven Katz, Post-Holocaust Dialogues: Critical Studies in Modern Jewish Thought
- Biography Dan Kurzman, Ben-Gurion: Prophet of Fire
- Jewish history Michael Stanislawski, Tsar Nicholas I and the Jews: The Transformation of Jewish Society in Russia, 1825-1855
- Scholarship S.D. Goitein, A Mediterranean Society: The Jewish Community of the Arab World, as Portrayed in the Documents of the Cairo Geniza -- Daily Life (Vol.4)
- Children's literature Chaya M. Burstein, The Jewish Kids Catalog
- Yiddish literature Chaim Leib Fuchs, Tsu Di Himlen Aroyf



Peter Grose



Dan Kurzman



Roman Vishniac

The JWB Jewish Book Council seeks to promote American Jewish literary creativity and an appreciation of Jewish literature.

In addition to conferring the annual national Jewish Book Awards, the JWB Jewish Book Council sponsors Jewish Book Month, publishes the trilingual Jewish Book Annual, syndicates Jewish Books in Review, issues Jewish Book World, conducts book conferences, and serves as a clearing-house for information about Jewish books. Ruth S. Frank is Council director.

NATIONAL JEWISH ARCHIVE OF BROADCASTING

The Jewish Museum in New York City has opened the doors of the National Jewish Archive of Broadcasting, which contains more than 500 pieces of videotape and film about contemporary Jewish history. The archive is the first single-subject broadcasting archive in the country.

"I think all religious and ethnic groups," said Fay Schreiber, director of the archive, "should have such an archive. We have pioneered in the methodology for building such an archive and others can use our methods." The archive can be used by scholars, writers, and others doing research. "Television is a new area of academic study," explained Schreiber. The archive is not open to the general public. However, there will be public screenings of the material in the fall. "We hope the screenings will bring in an interfaith audience," said Schreiber. "One of the purposes of the archive is to help non-Jews understand Jewish people and their culture and help overcome anti-Semitism."

The archive has material in six categories: newscasts, documentaries, religious programs, interview programs, entertainment, and commercial. The archive has donor contracts with all of the major networks but must pay for duplication fees. Some of the material in the archive includes the Molly Goldberg situation comedy popular in the 1950's; Maurice Schwartz in a 1955 religious drama; Edward R. Murrow interviewing Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion in 1956, and the complete tapes of the Eichmann trial in 1961.

"The Eichmann trial," explained Schreiber, "was the first event ever to be videotaped. The trial, which took place in Israel, happened before there was TV in Israel; it was heard only on radio. The tapes were shown later, when Israel got television." Schreiber said she expected the Eichmann tapes to be one of the most popular items in the archive. "So far the tapes have been used by the BBC and by an independent filmmaker, Josh Waletzki."

In the fall, there will be a public screening at the museum of the Eichmann trial tapes. Other public screenings in the fall will be of Jewish humor, about the controversy of the Nazi parade in Skokie, Ill., and about the music of Terezin, Czechoslovakia.

The archive advisory board includes Avery Fischer, Joel Grey, Chaim Potok, and Isaac Stern.

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George C. Grant, editor of the Black Caucus Newsletter has offered to send copies of the BC Newsletter to interested members of the JLC. Their address is BCALA Newsletter, P.O. Box 3403, Stockton State College, Pomona, NJ 08240.

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On our return home from the Passover Seder, we found this letter from the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews in our mail. The address of the UCSJ is 1411 K St., N.W., Suite 402, Washington D.C. 20005; tel. # (202) 393-4117

**I HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT SOVIET SECRET POLICE CONDUCTED RAIDS ON THE HOMES OF TEN JEWISH FAMILIES IN ODESSA.**

**THEY FORCED THEIR WAY IN TO SEARCH FOR WEAPONS. ONCE INSIDE THE SEARCH FOR WEAPONS ENDED AND A NEW SEARCH BEGAN.**

**A SEARCH FOR RELIGIOUS ITEMS -- BOOKS, SEDER PLATES, CANDLESTICKS, HAGGADAHs, PICTURES OF ISRAEL -- ANY SYMBOL OF CONNECTION TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE. THEY FOUND WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR AND DESTROYED OR CONFISCATED EVERY ITEM.**

**IN A FINAL ACT OF DESECRATION THE KGB TORE THE MEZUZOT FROM EACH DOORPOST.**

**CHERNENKO'S ODESSA RAIDS HAD TWO PURPOSES. FIRST, TO TERRORIZE THE JEWS OF RUSSIA ON THE EVE OF PASSOVER. AND SECOND, TO TEST HIS HOPE THAT THE WEST WOULD REMAIN SILENT.**

**CHERNENKO BE DAMNED....WE WILL NOT BE SILENT.**

**WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN A CAMPAIGN TO REVEAL THE VICIOUS ANTI-SEMITISM OF THE ODESSA RAIDS TO WORLD LEADERS. THERE WAS NO WAY TO PLAN FOR THIS CAMPAIGN...**

The UCSJ then asked that we send the postcard (photocopied below) or a telegram in our own words to U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

## THE ODESSA RAIDS

United Nations  
United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

**Dear Mr. Secretary General,**

I have just learned that the KGB broke into the homes of ten Odessa Jews to search for weapons. They didn't find any. Instead they destroyed everything they could find that was in any way Jewish ... including the mezuzot on the doorposts.

As the Secretary General of the United Nations, home of the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights, I appeal to you to call Soviet Ambassador Oleg Troyanovsky into your office. Demand to know why such a flagrant, vicious anti-Semitic action took place. Those of us in the free world will not stand by and let these events go unnoticed.

(signature)

MINUTES OF THE JEWISH LIBRARIANS CAUCUS  
MIDWINTER MEETING  
Washington, D.C. January 8, 1984

After introductions of those present, minutes of the last meeting (Los Angeles, June 26, 1983) which appeared in The Jewish Librarians Caucus Newsletter (Vol. 7, no. 3-4, July-Dec., 1983) were reviewed and approved. Lillian Kahn gave an informal treasurers report (in lieu of Sylvia Eisen, Treasurer, who was not present at the meeting). In brief, the financial situation of the Jewish Librarians Caucus is positive, enough money is available to produce the newsletter for another year as a result of the interest aroused at the Los Angeles meeting (and "The Jewish Question" issue).

David Cohen briefly reported about the activities of the Minority Concerns Committee of ALA. Annette Blank, Enoch Pratt Library, is the representative on that committee from the Jewish Librarians Caucus. The Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Round Table was also mentioned by David Cohen and Susan Freiband as another important place for input and involvement by members of the Jewish Librarians Caucus.

The status of the Newsletter was discussed -- its value and key role in communicating ideas and raising issues of importance to Jewish librarians was emphasized. In this context, Lillian Kahn, editor of the Newsletter, displayed a six-inch stack of highly negative articles and clippings about Israel sent to her by Sandy Berman over the past two years. Lillian asked if the Caucus wanted the Newsletter to devote its pages to these politically-charged items which in almost all cases have nothing to do with librarianship. The Caucus unanimously supported Lillian's editorial decision not to publish Mr. Berman's items.

Program ideas were discussed for the 1984 Dallas conference. Anti-Semitism on college campuses, an idea raised at the Los Angeles meeting was mentioned. In addition, two other suggestions for programs were introduced: building Judaica collections (in relation to the new book Building Judaica Library Collections by Lubetski), as suggested by Robert Sewell (Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and a program focussing on library materials relating to the 1986 Centennial Celebration of the Statue of Liberty, as presented by Debbie Rubin, Dallas Public Library, and included in the Newsletter (Vol. 7, no. 3-4, July-Dec., 1983). After some discussion about these suggestions, the consensus appeared to favor a program combining both Sewell's and Rubin's ideas. Having a table exhibit of materials relating to Rubin's suggestion was also mentioned as a possibility. Time and day for the Dallas program was mentioned, with a daytime slot either Monday or Tuesday suggested.

MINUTES, continued

As a follow-up to the action by the Library of Congress on "The Jewish Question" subject heading (see minutes of Los Angeles meeting), Dick Hyman was appointed chair of the Standing Subject Access Committee to examine other LC subject headings that may need revision. Also on the Committee are Sandy Berman, David Cohen, and others.

Other possibilities for specific projects of the Jewish Librarians Caucus were mentioned, including a core list of recommended books and other materials for children. These books will be identified by branch of Judaism. Barbara Widim of the Association of Jewish Librarians in the Washington, D.C. area expressed interest in this project. Other types of publications including bibliographies and guides were mentioned.

Election of officers took place with Susan Freiband being reelected as Chairperson and Sylvia Eisen as Treasurer.

Under other new or old business, Bernie Schlessinger from the library school at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, spoke about an important project of WNET and ALA. He asked for input and assistance from members of the Jewish Librarians Caucus concerning a television series to be prepared on "Heritage, Civilization and the Jews". People are needed to help prepare bibliographies and lists of resources, as well as programming ideas to support this nationally televised series. Peggy Barber, Public Information Officer at ALA, is the contact person for any such ideas and suggestions. The 6,000 public libraries in this country will be supplied with a kit of various kinds of materials related to this important television series.

David Cohen suggested considering the possibility of the Jewish Librarians Caucus becoming a task force under the new Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Round Table. This will be considered at the Dallas Conference business meeting.

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The Council of Jewish Librarians of Greater Washington recently sent us its April newsletter. Several interesting events will be taking place in the nation's capital this year. For example, on May 11, 1:30-3:00 P.M., the chief librarian of the National Museum of American History, Rhoda Ratner, has arranged for a field trip, "Judaica at the Smithsonian". Also, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington is planning for the 15th annual Jewish Book Fair, November 4-11.

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-- BOOK REVIEW --

Gurock, Jeffrey S. American Jewish History: A Bibliographical Guide. New York  
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 1983. 195p. index \$6.95pa

This book was commissioned by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith as part of its bibliographic series in Judaica. The author is Associate Professor of American History at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University. The book is addressed to the educated general public, teachers, librarians, students and scholars. It consists of a series of short bibliographic essays covering basic introductory and reference works on American Jewish History, colonial and early national period (1654-ca.1840), era of German migration (ca1840-ca1880), era of East European migration (ca1880-1924), and close of East European migration to the present. There is a chapter on "Special Topics" including American zionism, anti-semitism, the Holocaust, and American Jewish women's history. The book concludes with a brief section on suggestions for further research. Although the scope of the guide is broad, it emphasizes the Ashkenazic rather than the Sephardic contribution to American Jewish history. The bibliographic material is descriptive and selective, including critical remarks about sources mentioned. There is a listing of periodical articles and books referred to in the essays at the end of the book, as well as an author and a title index. A subject index would have been useful. The small-size paperback format is a disadvantage of the book. Although the price is low, the physical format could have been improved. The guide represents a valuable, additional resource for students, teachers and scholars of American Jewish history. It is especially important for academic library collections (particularly those supporting Jewish Studies programs) and for Jewish day school and synagogue libraries.

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by Susan Freiband, President of the Jewish Librarians Caucus

Chicago Jewish Library  
20 E. Taylor St.  
11202

-- BOOK REVIEW --

Please enter my subscription to the Jewish Librarians Caucus  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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