

## THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2010 IS...

President - Jim Rosenbloom  
VP/President-elect - Heidi Estrin  
VP for Publications - Debbie Stern  
VP for Membership - Laurie Haas  
Treasurer - Sheryl Stahl  
Recording secretary - Elana Gensler  
Corresponding secretary - Rachel Glasser

RAS President - Rachel Leket-Mor  
RAS VP - Daniel Scheide  
RAS Secretary - Dan Rettberg  
SSC President - Joyce Levine  
SSC VP - Sara Ravid  
SSC Secretary - Maureen Reister

AJL's biennial election will again be held by electronic ballot. This is a quick and easy way to vote, and it saves trees, too!

In order to participate, you need to be sure your dues are current—only paid-up members are eligible to vote—and make sure you've let us know your correct email address. To check on the email address in our records, go to the website at [www.jewishlibraries.org/](http://www.jewishlibraries.org/) and look up your name in the directory. Please make sure that the email address listed there is the one you prefer to use for this election. Email addresses are NEVER used for any other purpose than the election.

If your email address has changed please contact our vice-president for membership, Laurie Haas, to correct it. You can reach her at [lhaas@torahacademy.org](mailto:lhaas@torahacademy.org)

If you need a paper ballot for this election, please call Joy Kingsolver at 630-988-4726. We'll make sure you're able to participate. If you have questions, contact Joy by phone, or email [jkingsolver@earthlink.net](mailto:jkingsolver@earthlink.net).

### **PRESIDENT:**

**Jim Rosenbloom** has worked at Brandeis University since 1976. His current title is Judaica Librarian. He is the President of the RAS Division of AJL, a member of the RAS Awards Committee, and chair of the RAS Digitization Committee. He was co-chair of the Programming Committee for the Boston convention, Vice-President of RAS and chair of the RAS Awards Committee.

### **Personal statement:**

I have spent my whole working life in a library that has supported and promoted a major Judaica collection, with the staffing needed to serve the users of this collection. Unfortunately, the reality in many libraries, especially those in synagogues, schools and centers, is the increasing lack of appreciation for the need to maintain libraries and the distressing trend of eliminating librarian positions. AJL has an important role in making sure that Jewish community professional and lay leaders understand the dangers of the current trend. We also have to make sure that universities, in their efforts to cut costs, do not skimp on maintaining their fine Judaica collections or cut back on librarian positions.

Our organization has in the last several years been increasing our outreach and communication. We have already begun to carry out the recommendations of a task force that has identified current problems facing Judaica librarians, and has made recommendations about how AJL can address these problems. One of my major goals is to intensify this outreach and to make sure that the voice of AJL is heard by those in the Jewish community who make decisions about libraries and librarians.

We have recently upgraded our contacts with Israeli librarians. I am eager to increase these contacts, to encourage Israelis to join AJL, and to develop alliances with all groups or organizations that Israeli librarians may form. I would also like to increase our contacts with European librarians. There are many areas in which we can cooperate.

My final goal is financial. We are fortunately not suffering some of the serious financial problems that are plaguing other voluntary organizations. However, we can't assume that this will always be the case. I hope that we will be able to start, in the next few years, to find funding that will sustain all of our future activities. I also hope that we can increase the amount of funding needed to make it possible for more of our members to attend the annual conventions.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT:**

**Heidi Rabinowitz Estrin** has been the library media specialist for Feldman Children's Library at Congregation B'nai Israel, a large Reform synagogue in Boca Raton, Florida, since 1998. She provides library services and programming for the temple's preschool and after-school religious classes, and also teaches computer lab for the preschool. Heidi became deeply involved in AJL immediately upon joining the organization, helping to plan the 1999 annual convention in Boca Raton. She has served AJL as a conference presenter, president of the South Florida Chapter, founding chair of the Mentoring Committee, member and Chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee, and Public Relations Chair. She hosts The Book of Life podcast, which is supported in part by AJL, and also oversees the podcasting of AJL's convention session recordings. Heidi reviews children's books for AJL Newsletter, Jewish Book World, and School Library Journal, and is something of a kidlit evangelist. Before becoming a Judaica librarian in 1998, she worked as a youth services librarian for public libraries in Broward County, FL, and Pittsburgh, PA. Her MLS is from the University of Pittsburgh.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS:**

**Deborah Stern** serves as the director of the Mordecai Kaplan Library of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, a position she has held for the past eight years. She is a graduate of George Washington University, holds an M.A. in Contemporary Jewish Studies from Brandeis University, and an M.S. in Library Science from Columbia University. She has been active in AJL as VP for Publications for the last four years, one of the three co-chairs of the AJL Strategic Planning Task Force, and as chair of the Scholarship Committee for four years from 2000-2004.

Debbie lives in Philadelphia with her husband of almost 39 years, and her two children and son-in-law also live nearby. Most importantly, her 2½ year old granddaughter lives only a mile away and loves to spend time with her "savta." When not working for RRC or the AJL, Debbie enjoys Israeli dancing and the cultural offerings in the Philadelphia area.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP:**

**Laurie Haas** is in her 15th year as the librarian and network administrator at the Columbus Torah Academy, a modern Orthodox day school that has been in existence for over 50 years. Her undergraduate degree is in education with a major in library and educational media from Bowling Green State University, Ohio. She completed additional master's level work at the University of Arizona and Kent State University. Laurie has been a children's librarian at a public library, on the interlibrary loan staff of a major university, the

transportation librarian in a research facility, and has experience in school libraries. Laurie has served one term as Vice President of Membership, in conjunction with Yossi Galron.

She is married to her husband of 24 years (a library archivist at the Ohio Historical Society) and is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of two beautiful girls.

**TREASURER:**

**Sheryl Stahl** is the Senior Associate Librarian and library webmaster at the Frances-Henry Library on the Los Angeles campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She has a BA (linguistics) and a BS (math/computer science) from the University of Illinois, an MA (Bible and cognate studies) from Hebrew Union College, and an MLIS (library and information science) from the University of Kentucky. She worked at the Cincinnati campus of HUC for many years before migrating west to the Los Angeles campus in 2001. As an "almost solo" librarian, she does a bit of everything including reference, cataloging, instruction, and clearing the copy machine. She enjoys learning how to incorporate new technology into her library and website. Sheryl has been an active member of AJL: blogging at a few of the conventions, writing reviews for the Newsletter, and presenting at the conventions. She has enjoyed working with the AJL Board and Council for the past 2 years. When not at work, Sheryl spends time with her family, quilts, gardens, and reads science fiction.

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**

**Elana GENSLER** holds an M.L.S. from Queens College and is currently a reference librarian at the West Hempstead Public Library in NY. Previously, she was the library media specialist at the Hebrew Academy of Long Beach. Elana is the current AJL Recording Secretary. She serves on the editorial board of *Judaica Librarianship* and is the editor of *Sifria*, the newsletter of the Long Island Chapter of AJL. Other AJL offices Elana has held include: Publications Vice President, Bibliography Bank Chair and Co-chair of the 2004 AJL convention in NY.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:**

**Rachel K. Glasser** has been the librarian at Yavneh Academy in Paramus, NJ for the past 14 years and has served as AJL Corresponding Secretary for 3 1/2 years. She is also co-chair of the NYMA Day School Workshop. Previously, she served as President of AJLSC, chair of the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Committee, worked on the revisions for both the Elazar and Weine Cataloging Schemes, and was the founding cataloger for CCS (Central Cataloging Service for Libraries of Judaica).

**RAS PRESIDENT:**

**Rachel Leket-Mor** is a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Bachelor of Arts, 1991: Comparative Literature; Hebrew; Classics). She has a diploma in Hebrew editing from Bar-Ilan University (1993) and has worked with Israeli publishers for 10 years, editing scholarly works as well as translated fiction from English and French. Rachel earned her graduate degrees from Tel Aviv University (MA, 2002: Translation Studies) and the University of Arizona (MLIS, 2007). She is the Religion, Philosophy, and Jewish Studies Bibliographer at Arizona State University Libraries, where she is working since 2002.

Rachel has presented at AJL annual conventions, and co-chaired the 2007 convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. She enjoyed representing AJL at the recent 15th World Congress of

Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, together with other AJL librarians. Her involvement with AJL continued in the last two years by serving as the Strategic Planning Taskforce co-chair and as the Vice-President for RAS. Under the latter role, she has chaired the Reference and Bibliography Awards Committee.

**Personal Statement:**

I hope to increase the visibility of the RAS Division among other academic and professional societies, and work on developing collaborative projects. Supporting research librarians and collaborative research projects among AJL members is another goal I have in mind for my service term, a goal that will have to go hand in hand with fundraising. I also intend to advocate for the next generation of Judaica librarians and archivists by collaborating with accredited Library Science programs to develop appropriate coursework.

**RAS VICE PRESIDENT:**

**Daniel Scheide** is a catalog librarian at Florida Atlantic University. He currently serves as recording secretary for AJL's RAS division. He also is a book review editor for the AJL Newsletter.

**RAS SECRETARY:**

**Daniel J. Rettberg** is Rare Book and Manuscript Bibliographer at the Klau Library of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has held this position since May, 2001. From 1994-2001 he served as Rare Book Librarian at the Pitts Theology Library at Emory University, and from 1989 to 1994 as Rare Materials Catalog Librarian at Duke University. He holds the Ph.D. in Rabbinical Literature from the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning (now the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania) in Philadelphia, and the M.S. in Information Studies from Drexel University.

**SSC PRESIDENT:**

**Joyce Levine** earned her Library Certification from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She has worked as a Children's Librarian at Great Neck Public Library and an elementary school librarian at the Solomon Schechter Day School. She established two new Jewish high school libraries, both at the Hebrew Academy of Nassau County and in her present position, at the North Shore Hebrew Academy in Great Neck, New York. Joyce has been active in AJL-NYMA. She was Publicity Chair for the Brooklyn convention which was hosted by the New York chapter in 2004. She is a Board Member of AJL-NYMA, having co-chaired the Day School/High School Workshops and presently serving as Chapter Treasurer. She served as an Avi Chai mentor to Jewish high school libraries, and was Avi Chai Coordinator for the AJL National Convention for the last few years. Her present position on AJL Council is Co-Chair of the Technology Committee, assisting Diane Romm with the new AJL wiki. Joyce has been a presenter at a number of regional and AJL National Conventions.

**Personal statement:**

I am honored that I was asked to head the SSC division this year. SSC includes such a wide spectrum of synagogues, schools and centers. The inclusion of all these kinds of libraries should reflect our diversity, and I plan to reach out to every component of SSC. One major objective is to help establish curriculum standards for Jewish school libraries, both in synagogues and day schools. My years on the Board of AJL-NYMA, my experience as an Avi Chai Bookshelf mentor as well as coordinator of Avi Chai for the past few AJL National Conventions, and my inclusion on AJL Council has enabled me to work with so many

dedicated people in our field. With funding sources diminished for many of the institutions which employ us, we must focus on the fact that our greatest resource is our own professional talent. Thank you to Suzi Dubin and to Marsha Lustigman, outgoing SSC President, for inspiring me to take on this task.

**SSC VICE PRESIDENT:**

**Sarah Ravid** is in her sixth year as the Library Media Specialist in the Levy Library at the Saval Campus (gr. 6-12) of the Maimonides School in Brookline, MA. She holds a dual BA in Linguistic Anthropology and Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University and a dual MS in Education and Library and Information Science, during which time she was one of the AJL Scholarship recipients in 2000. She has benefited from paraprofessional and professional library experience in a mix of settings – general and Judaic, academic, archives, public school and special education. Her professional interests include collaborative integration of MS/HS discipline-area staff and curriculum with those of the library and creating streamlined differentiated approaches to the research process across the MS/HS day school curriculum. She has presented on “Promoting Hebrew Reading in the Day School,” “Mah Yesh Ba-Sifriyah? (What is in the Library?)” and together with Debbie Feder, co-presented on “Information Literacy Standards: Mission and Vision.” Her organizational involvement in AJL has included co-chairing the Convention Programming Committee in 2006, coordinating Exhibits for the 2007 Convention and serving on the committee for the NEAJL conference this past spring. She is fluent in modern Hebrew and hopes someday to improve her Yiddish conversation skills.

**SSC SECRETARY:**

**Maureen Reister** is Director of Libraries at Ann & Nate Levine Academy, a Solomon Schechter school in Dallas, Texas. She holds an MLS from University of North Texas, a BS from The Ohio State University, and an AAS in Information Technology. She has been a member of AJL since 1986, has served on various committees, including Sydney Taylor Book Award, Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award, and Accreditation, and is currently SSC Secretary.