



Speizman Jewish Library



From the Librarian's Desk

By Amalia Warshenbrot, Librarian, Speizman Jewish Library



From Washington With Love

The Speizman Jewish Library is a member of The Association of Jewish Libraries. Each year about three hundred librarians meet to bring the librarians in contact with the latest developments in the constantly expanding field of Judaica librarianship. This year the Executive Board of The Charlotte Jewish Federation recognized the benefit of my attending this convention and voted to fully support my trip to Washington, D.C.

The Association of Jewish

Libraries is comprised of two divisions: The Research Division and the School, Synagogue Center Division.

The Speizman Jewish Library is a JCC library center but mostly serves as a synagogue and school library so I attended many stimulating and valuable sessions and had the opportunity to network with librarians in other synagogues and community centers in similar situations.

Each year the convention takes place at a different location. This year we were fortunate to be in Washington, D.C. Staying in the nation's capital added up to a unique experience.

The opening event took place in The Holocaust Memorial Museum followed by a full day at the Library of Congress — the world's largest library — with incredible librarians. I felt privileged to meet librarians whose knowledge in Jewish studies and librarianship is remarkable.

The visit at the Library of Congress was the highlight of this year's convention. I had not been aware of the magnitude of the Judaica collection; from ancient texts to Hebrew books, or mention of the Jewish people in secular books obtained by U.S. presidents and scholars. I was especially impressed by the delicate work that goes into book preservation. The phrase "People of the Book" gained new meaning for me.

The attendees had a chance to meet many authors who use the Library of Congress for research. The keynote speaker was Herman Wouk, whose most recently published book is *The Will to Live On: This Is Our Heritage*, spoke about writing and the importance of librarians in his life. The staff of the Library of Congress has always been wonderfully helpful to Mr. Wouk's work. He also described trying to impress the librarians at his local branch of the New York Public Library in the

Bronx when he was young by taking out the biggest books he could manage to carry. Other authors were Allegra Goodman (whose book is Temple Israel's Book Club choice for September), Cynthia Ozick, Elie Wiesel and many more Israeli and American Jewish writers.

The highlight of Tuesday evening's Gala Banquet was the presentation of the Association's annual awards for juvenile and adult books, The Sydney Taylor Award for Younger Readers, The Sydney Taylor Award for Older Readers, The Association of Jewish Libraries Reference Book Award, and The Association of Jewish Libraries' Bibliography Award. At the convention's end on Wednesday a tour visited the

B'nai Brith Museum.

I came back with renewed energy and many new ideas to use in our religious schools. I added many titles to my wish list. I have learned about cataloging genealogy, Jewish music, children's books, and of course The Internet.

I thank the Chairperson of the Library Committee, Roz Cooper, and Federation liaison Ruth Goldberg, who recognized the value of my professional growth. Thanks to the Federation Board for their generous support and to Marvin Goldberg, whose belief in education is expressed in so many ways. The convention has enhanced my skills and knowledge, thereby directly benefiting all library programs. ✧

Back to School in the Speizman Jewish Library

By Amalia Warshenbrot, Librarian

As of Labor Day we will resume our school hours which will include Sunday morning, Wednesday night and Tuesdays during Temple Israel Religious School hours. For detailed hours please call 366-5007.

We have purchased many new books thanks to generous donations to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Basket fund raiser and we will also start new programs which were introduced to me at the Judaica Librarians' Convention (see article on this page.)

One of our programs which

continues from last year is Our Readers Write. Last year First Prize winner was Andrew Parker, a fifth grader from Temple Beth El (see his essay on this page). Each month, we'll publish one winning essay. Please look for the outstanding essays of Sheina Taub and Abigail Bennett in the upcoming CJN issues.

The Speizman Jewish Library is open to the entire Jewish community at no cost. ✧

The Speizman Jewish Library staff, volunteers and users thanks the following generous individuals for their contributions to the library:

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ry of Libby Levinson from Ellie and Ron Katz
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"Our Readers Write"

The Case of the Missing Cards By Ruth Zakutinsky

Review By Andrew Parker

This book is mainly written for grades 3 through 5 but anyone would enjoy reading it or having it read to them.

The book is a mystery.

The setting of this book is mainly at Yosef's house about the time of Sukkot during current times. We do not know what city he lives in which made me imagine it could be in my city.

The main idea of this book is that Yosef is a young Jewish boy who has a problem. Yosef's baseball cards have been stolen and he and his friend try to find out who stole the cards. The author gives us a character that we can relate to and understand. She puts in familiar words and activities that all Jewish children can relate to like Sukkot and Shabbat. I think she wrote this story for Jewish children.

This book is good, but I think the book needs to be more exciting. I wish the mystery was more complicated and had several sus-

pects. We knew who took the cards very soon and most of the story was just about proving who took them.

I think this book was unusual because people don't write about Jewish kids. The story included words about Sukkot, Shabbat, and the children had names like Yosef, Judah, and Yoni.

The main character of this book was Yosef, a Jewish boy who did not like to get in trouble. I like him and could relate to him because his life was a lot like mine. I like to collect baseball cards and I don't like to get into trouble.

This book had no violence, bad language, or bad events.

The book was special because not many books are written with a Jewish boy as the main character. It includes Jewish holidays, customs and worship (Shabbat).

The book is illustrated but with only two illustrations — pencil sketches of Yosef and Yosef and the bully. The sketches added very little to the story and could have

been left out. I like to use my imagination and imagine that the character might look like me or one of my friends. ✧

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