

Chapter Chatter

JEWISH LIBRARIAN NETWORK OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO (JLNMC)

SUBMITTED BY SHELLEY RISKIN, VICE-PRESIDENT



THE JLNMC POTLUCK GATHERING FEATURED GOOD CONVERSATION!

Our JLNMC group enjoyed celebrating the new secular year of 2020 with a January potluck dinner at the home of our long-time active member Shoshanah Seidman. This was a festive gathering, where we got to know one another better in an informal atmosphere. The food and drinks were delicious, and we played a fun “get acquainted” game called Two Truths and a Lie. Each participant said two true things about themselves, as well as one statement that was made up. The group voted on which one wasn’t true. We learned a lot about each other’s true talents and experiences, in an unexpected and delightful way! This was a good opportunity to come together as a small group before the national AJL 2020 Conference in Evanston, Illinois at the Orrington Hotel in June.



POTLUCK GOODIES ON DISPLAY AT JLNMC NEW YEAR’S CELEBRATION.

The months after our potluck and before the AJL Conference will be filled with meetings as JLNMC plans, coordinates and delves into the myriad details required for hosting a great conference, all under the leadership of Conference co-chairs and JLNMC members Rachel Kamin and Marcie Eskin. Our chapter will be ready and eager to welcome everyone to AJL’s 2020 Conference “Cooler By the Lake.” See you then!

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA (NYMA)

SUBMITTED BY HALLIE CANTOR

NYMA’s New Year kicked off to a great start with a Reference Workshop, “Genealogy for Librarians,” held Tuesday, December 10, at New York Public Library and hosted by Amanda Seigel, Librarian of NYPL’s Dorot Judaica Division. Amanda was joined by an outstanding team of colleagues, each of whom presented intensive sessions on genealogy resources. There was also a presenter from the Leo Baeck Institute (division of the Center for Jewish History).



CARMEN NIGRO,
MANAGING RESEARCH
LIBRARIAN

Not surprisingly, New York has an abundance of riches. NYPL is “research heaven,” said Melanie Locay, Associate Manager of NYPL’s Center for Research in the Humanities. Pointing to the beautiful Beaux Arts building’s features – quiet study rooms, shared space -- she lauded the biggest asset: the help of librarians to find materials. Carmen Nigro – Managing Research Librarian, Milstein Division, Map Division, Jewish Division – added that all the librarians have specialties, with special degrees.

In his “Introduction to Lionel Pincus and Princess Piryal Map Division,” Curator **Ian Fowler** showcased NYPL’s massive collection of over 400,000 maps and 20,000 books and atlases. These include densely detailed county and city maps, listing everything: slave ports, places of worship, prominent farms, even livestock. In his “Discovering Old New York with Fire Insurance Maps,” Artis Q. Wright, also of NYPL’s Map Division, displayed historical publications of insurance companies needing to determine the hazards of certain areas. These maps include names of streets, lot numbers, property



ARTIS Q. WRIGHT OF NYPL
MAP DIVISION