



Memorial Resolution Honoring Menahem Schmelzer

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) lost a valued colleague on December 10, 2022, with the death of Menahem Schmelzer;

Whereas Schmelzer was born in 1934 in Keel Hungary; with his family, they survived the Holocaust in labor camps; In 1961, he immigrated to New York where he joined The Jewish Theological Seminary;

Whereas Schmelzer graduated and received his academic trainings from the University of Budapest and The Jewish Theological Seminary of Hungary; Schmelzer earned his Master of Arts from Copenhagen University; and Library Diploma from the State Library School in Denmark (DHL); Schmelzer also attended the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies;

Whereas Schmelzer was the Albert B. and Bernice Cohen Professor Emeritus of Medieval Hebrew Literature and Jewish Bibliography at The Jewish Theological Seminary; Schmelzer served as a full time faculty member in The Jewish Theological Seminary in 1961;

Whereas Schmelzer was librarian from 1964-1987 in The Jewish Theological Seminary; over two decades, he served many students and scholars; Schmelzer built and opened access to one of the world's most important collections of Judaica; In 1966, Schmelzer was appointed head librarian; Schmelzer led the library's recovery effort following a destructive fire in 1966; Schmelzer oversaw the renovation of the library which opened in a new building in 1982;

Whereas Schmelzer was a prolific and renown scholar; he published 11 books and over 70 articles and reviews focusing on a variety of topics from liturgy and Hebrew poetry to Jewish book culture and history; Schmelzer was very knowledgeable, generous, and had a great sense of humor; Schmelzer influenced generations of scholars and librarians; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA) and the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL), on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of Menahem Schmelzer over the course of his career and mourns his death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to his friends and family.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Sunday, January 29, 2023, ALA LLX, New Orleans, LA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracie Hall", written in a cursive style.

Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director, and
Secretary of the ALA Council