

Oren, Michael B. **Ally**. 2015. This frank memoir of Oren's time as Israel's ambassador to the US covers a period of transformative change for America and violent upheaval in the Middle East. He writes openly about the special relationship between the two allies.

Satlow, Michael L. **How the Bible Became Holy**. 2014. Sweeping narrative based on cutting edge research explains the fascinating story of how ancient, obscure Israelite writings, stored in a dusty temple become the founding holy texts of both Judaism and Christianity.

Sarna, Jonathan & Benjamin Shapell. **Lincoln and the Jews**. 2015. The 150th anniversary of our Civil War sparks a revelation of a little known side of our great President and his historic relationship with American Jews using rare images and newly discovered manuscripts.

Schama, Simon. **The Story of the Jews**. 2014. A richly illustrated companion to the PBS and BBC series, this volume by a highly respected historian traces the Jewish experience from its beginnings as an ancient tribal people to the opening of the New World in 1492.

Shapira, Anita and Anthony Berris. **Ben-Gurion**. 2015. The latest biography of Zionist icon and founder of modern Israel focuses on the period after 1948 and the personal qualities that helped Ben-Gurion make a contemporary Israeli state a reality.

Siegel, Seth. **Let There Be Water**. 2015. Israel avoided the present water crisis! Read this compelling book based on meticulous research and interviews to discover how Israel did it; find models for your country's solutions.

Steinberg, Kerri P. **Jewish Mad Men : Advertising and the Design of the American Jewish Experience**. 2015. Jingles and taglines enliven a careful study of the way advertising shaped American Jewish culture over the past 100 years. From Maneschevitz wine to matzah to the Maxwell House Haggadah, case studies make great tales.

## DVD'S

**Above and Beyond**. Directed by Roberta Grossman. 2015. A fascinating documentary about a ragtag group of American pilots who answer the call to fly for Israel in the 1948 war for Independence.

**The Physician**. Directed by Philipp Stölzl. 2015. In the eleventh century a young man with an unusual talent leaves Dark Ages Europe with its barber/surgeon medicine to go to the Middle East to study with the world's most enlightened physician Ibn Sina.

**The Red Tent**. Directed by Roger Young. 2015. Dinah's happy childhood is spent inside the red tent where tribal women gather to hear the story of Dinah's mothers, the four wives of Jacob. The film, based on the best-selling novel by Anita Diamant, recounts Dinah's devastating adult love life, its impact on her family's fate.

**This is Where I Leave You**. Directed by Shawn Levy. 2015. Their father's death forces four grown siblings, bruised by their respective adult lives, to return home to live together for the week of shiva in a bittersweet comedy. They ultimately reconnect amid chaos, humor, heartache and redemption.

**Woman in Gold**. Directed by Simon Curtis. 2015. Sixty years after she fled Vienna during World War II, an elderly Jewish woman, Maria Altmann, starts her journey to retrieve family possessions seized by the Nazis, among them Klimt's famous painting, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer.

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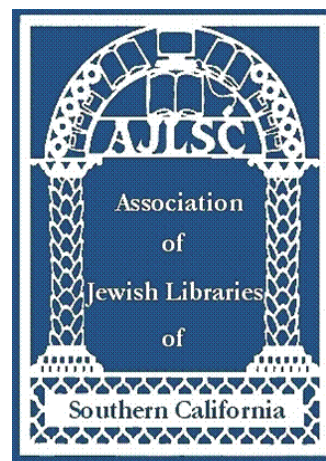
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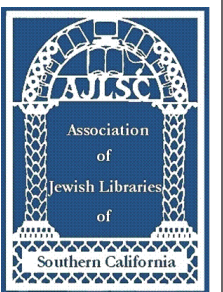
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# IN CELEBRATION OF JEWISH BOOK MONTH

## A Selected List of Recent Books and DVDs For Adults For 2016



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of Southern California





## FICTION BOOKS

Attenberg, Jami. **Saint Mazie**. 2015. A Jazz Age party girl winds up a ticket-taker in a Lower East Side movie theater by day, but plays angel at night helping bums and stiffs sleeping on the streets. In this historical novel based on the real Depression-era Mazie Gordon, sainthood invades historical fiction.

Ben-David, Mishka. **Duet in Beirut**. 2015. A popular Israeli novelist, once a Mossad agent, creates a spy from insider knowledge. His psychological thriller shrinks not from political intrigue as an Israeli agent disappears on an unauthorized mission.

Bezmozgis, David. **The Betrayers**. 2014. Winner of the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction. Escaping opponents in a Crimean resort town, disgraced Israeli politician Baruch Kotler runs into a former friend who had him sent to the gulag forty years earlier.

Bletter, Diana. **A Remarkable Kindness**. 2015. A moving testament to women's friendship underscores a little known ritual, tahara, as the novel's central quartet forms a burial circle in Israel.

Brafman, Michelle. **Washing the Dead**. 2015. Three generations of women confront family secrets in this debut novel that examines the experience of religious community, the perilous emotional path to adulthood, and the power of sacred rituals to repair damaged bonds between mothers and daughters.

Cantor, Jillian. **The Hours Count**. 2015. A fictional woman befriends the real Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, entering into their intrigue in this spellbinding historical novel.

Dweck, Nicole. **The Debt of Tamar**. 2015. From a 16th-century harem to a village in the Holy Land, from Nazi-occupied Paris to modern-day Manhattan, follow the threads of an enchanting tapestry of love, history and fate.

Goldberg, Tod. **Gangsterland**. 2014. In this wicked, dark, funny novel Sal Cupertine, legendary hit man for Chicago's Mafia, morphs into Rabbi David Cohen. Rabbi Cohen turns from his wicked past as the Mafia turns to him again, upending the morality tale.

Hannah, Kristin. **The Nightingale**. 2015. World War II sweeps two sisters onto different paths to survive murderous history in Nazi occupied France. This beautiful epic celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women.

Hoffman, Alice. **The Marriage of Opposites**. 2015. Sizzling historical fiction reveals the forbidden love story from the tropical island of St. Thomas about the defiant, extraordinary mother of painter Camille Pissarro. The Father of Impressionism has Jewish roots!

Hope, Jessamyn. **Safekeeping**. 2015. In 1994, an Israeli kibbutz is on the brink of societal changes. This dazzling debut novel brings together a quirky cast of characters who arrive that summer and are caught up in a mystery surrounding a 700-year-old jeweled brooch.

Kanon, Joseph. **Leaving Berlin**. 2015. In a gripping atmospheric novel of betrayal, murder and survival, a young Jewish writer, a Nazi refugee targeted by McCarthyism, makes a desperate bargain with the fledgling CIA to spy in war-torn Berlin.

Kumpfmuller, Michael. **The Glory of Life**. 2015. Romance and robbery propel this compelling fictional re-imagining of the legendary affair between author Franz Kafka and Dora Diamant. She refuses to destroy his works which fall into the Nazi's clutches.

Landau, Alexis. **The Empire of the Senses**. 2015. The Perlmutter, an assimilated, Jewish family, lead readers through early 20th century Germany. Their carefully plotted story is not about the Holocaust, but the juxtaposition of events that led to it.

Lemberger, Michal. **After Abel and Other Stories**. 2015. Nine original and thought-provoking stories shed light on Biblical women: famous, infamous and obscure. The author, a respected Bible scholar, gives knowing voice to underestimated narrators.

Litvag, Irving and Bonny V. Fetterman. **Commodore Levy**. 2014. Uriah Phillips Levy, the first Jewish commodore in the U.S. Navy, faced six courts-martial, a duel, and countless anti-Semitic taunts. He ended the flogging of sailors and saved President Jefferson's Monticello.

Mitchell, Judith Claire. **A Reunion of Ghosts**. 2015. Three sisters decide to kill themselves to highlight their haunted, guilty, family history; they are great grandchildren of the chemist who developed the first poison gas. This witty, though heartbreaking, tale is based on the troubled life of Fritz Haber, Nobel Prize winning inventor of mustard gas.

Pearlman, Edith. **Honeydew : Stories**. 2015. This new collection of short stories by a prize winning author validates her reputation as a marvelous talent. Bursting from her accomplished format and insightful vision are tales of love, hope, pain, age, and youth.

Reza, Yasmina. **Happy Are the Happy**. 2015. In a delicate, funny, humane book, a renowned playwright and novelist gifts us with short chapters from a first person point of view, revealing there is no hedge against yearning or regret.

Rojstaczer, Stuart. **The Mathematician's Shiva**. 2014. Winner of the National Jewish Book Award for Outstanding Debut Fiction. After the death of his eccentric mathematician mother, a meteorologist confronts her colleagues. Sitting shiva they rip up the house, desperate to find her papers with her rumored solution to a famous equation.

Samuel, Sigal. **The Mystics of Mile End**. 2015. Four distinct voices weave together the tale of a dysfunctional Montreal family obsessed with climbing the Kabbalah's Tree of Life. Their neighborhood, Mile End, home to Canadian hipsters and Hasidim, adds local color to a haunting story of secrets and loss as mysticism engages modern urban life.

Silva, Daniel. **The English Spy**. 2015. Legendary spy and assassin Gabriel Allon returns in another great thriller, this time chasing the murderer of a member of the British royal family.

Torday, Daniel. **The Last Flight of Poxl West**. 2015. An award-winning author limns a young man recounting his idolized Uncle Poxl, a Jewish, former-RAF pilot. As the novel explores memory, fame and story-telling, the action explodes the dark truth of Poxl's past.

Van Alkemade, Kim. **Orphan Number Eight**. 2015. This historical fiction set in the forgotten world of New York's Jewish orphanages opens in 1919 when Rachel arrives there and is subjected to an experiment. Flash forward to 1954 when the offending doctor is now a hospice patient in Rachel's care. Will she choose forgiveness or revenge?

Winspear, Jacqueline. **A Dangerous Place**. 2015. Maisie Dobbs returns in a powerful yarn of political intrigue, personal tragedy, lies, deceit and danger. She investigates the brutal murder of a photographer from Gibraltar's Sephardic Jewish community.

## NON-FICTION BOOKS

Baretz, Julie. **Bible on Location: Off the Beaten Path in Ancient and Modern Israel**. 2015. A new, innovative, friendly guidebook takes readers to 21 rare sites in Israel where Bible stories are said to have happened. The author relates historical context, biblical text and her own lively commentary about captivating, complex Bible characters.

Chast, Roz. **Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?** 2014. This new memoir comforts those experiencing the life-altering loss of elderly parents through photographs, cartoons, documents and a narrative balancing comic relief and tears.

Cohen, Herbert. **Kosher Movies**. 2015. These vignettes which connect movies and Torah wisdom are enlightening and entertaining. Entries are short. Author is a rabbi. Topics vary from parenting to self-improvement to aging, adversity, sports, second chances and more.

Cohen, Roger. **The Girl From Human Street**. 2015. A discerning New York Times columnist turns a compassionate eye on the legacy of "otherness" using his own forebears from the 19th century to the present, from Lithuania, South Africa, England, US and Israel.

Deen, Shulem. **All Who Go Do Not Return**. 2015. A member of one of the most insular Hasidic sects gives a moving account of his harrowing struggles with his loss of faith, family and community. He tries a life of deception to hold onto his five children.

Dershowitz, Alan. **Abraham: The World's First (But Certainly Not Last) Jewish Lawyer**. 2015. A well-known attorney offers a no-holds-barred history of Jewish lawyers from Abraham who argued before God through modern day advocates pursuing justice.

Elbogen, Dina. **Drawn From Water**. 2015. An American Jew explores her friendship with Ethiopian Jewish immigrants since Operation Moses airlifted them to Israel 30 years ago. Their lives raise questions about religion, assimilation, immigration and cultural identity.

Epstein, Lawrence. **Converts to Judaism: Stories from Biblical Times to Today**. 2015. Converts from Biblical Ruth to mega stars Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Taylor draw attention in this new collection. Some historical converts suffered for their choice.

First, Mitchell. **Esther Unmasked**. 2015. A talented Jewish scholar addresses, then solves 11 unusual aspects and inconsistencies in the annual cycle of holidays and liturgy.

Ginsberg, Mindy. **Easy-Way-Out-Of-Passover Cookbook**. 2015. This contemporary kosher cookbook urges you not to panic at Passover. It features over 100 recipes offering easy, delicious dishes to enhance your Seder and subsequent holiday meals. Enjoy!

Isenberg, Barbara. **Tradition**. 2014. Celebrate Fiddler on the Roof's 50th anniversary with a lively chronicle of the famed Broadway show. Isenberg interviews those behind the original production, revivals, and the movie.

Leff, Lisa. **The Archive Thief**. 2015. Zosa Szajkowski turns out to be both a heroic Jewish historian who saves the story of the French Jews by stealing tens of thousands of their archival documents from the Nazis and a library thief who cuts pages from books to sell to other collections. The author considers the ethical motives of the seller and the buyer.