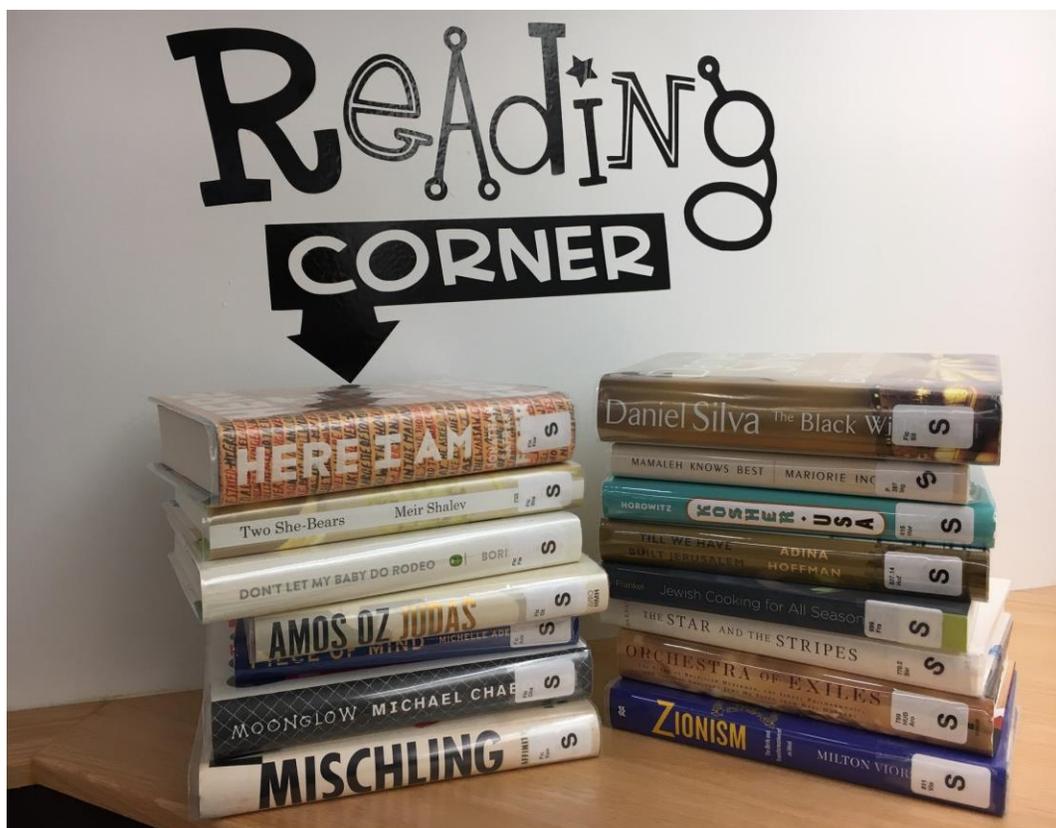
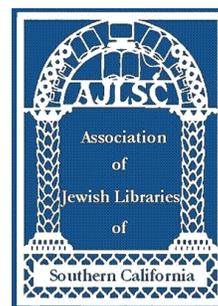


IN CELEBRATION OF JEWISH BOOK MONTH

A Selected List of Books for 2017 for Adults



A Publication of the
Association of Jewish Libraries
of Southern California



FICTION BOOKS

Adams, Thelma. **The Last Woman Standing.** 2016. An improbable romance and an iconic American tale merge in spirited historical fiction as spunky Rebecca Marcus captures the heart of the hero of the famed gunfight at the O.K. Corral.

Adelman, Michelle. **Piece of Mind.** 2016. Lucy possesses a rare talent for drawing, but no talent relating to people, due to a childhood brain injury. Leaving her protective Jewish home for an apartment with her brother instigates a challenging summer.

Balson, Ronald. **Karolina's Twins.** 2016. In this richly woven tale of love, survival and resilience, based on true events, the bond between girlhood friends frays as American Lena seeks answers to questions about her best friend in Holocaust-era Poland, Karolina.

Barton, Emily. **The Book of Esther.** 2016. Try this profound saga of war, mysticism, power and faith. An invented woman warrior determines to save her Jewish people in her imaginary country in a struggle that reveals the true issues of the real Holocaust.

Behrens, Peter. **Carry Me.** 2017. Two German children grow up on the British Isle of Wight. Years later they meet back in Germany. Friendship turns to love as they plan to escape from Nazi power to the wild American West they read about as children.

Belfer, Lauren. **After the Fire.** 2016. A passionate novel, inspired by historical events, ties 18th century European Sara and 20th century American Susanna to a mysterious anti-Semitic choral masterpiece by Johann Sebastian Bach that changes both their lives in their times.

Brooks, Kim. **The Houseguest.** 2106. In 1941 a Russian immigrant takes in a European refugee, a glamorous actress, anxious to spread the news of disappearing Jews in hopes Americans will act as saviors as masses are turned away from American shores.

Chabon, Michael. **Moonglow.** 2016. A Pulitzer Prize winner delivers a masterpiece of truth, lies, family legends, adventure and forces that work to destroy us. The author visits his dying grandfather whose memories become a deathbed confession of his life's sins.

Correa, Amando. **The German Girl.** 2016. Hannah lives a charmed life in Berlin until the Nazis. Passage on the *SS St. Louis* is her only escape. The saga sweeps to Cuba and New York, through revolution and terrorism to understanding of an exile's place in the world.

Fishman, Boris. **Don't Let My Baby Do Rodeo.** 2016. Russian immigrants adopt a baby whose mother begged them: don't let my baby do rodeo. When the child becomes wild, they seek his Western birth parents to discover the mystery of inheritance.

Foenkinos, David. **Charlotte.** 2016. German-Jewish Charlotte Salmon has a passion for art and living. She escapes the Nazis to France, lands in a work camp, escapes. She spends two years in solitude painting, writing, composing her life. She entrusts this autobiography to a friend when she is sent to Auschwitz; her death at 26 is not her end, but a paean to life.

Foer, Jonathan. **Here I Am.** 2016. During four tumultuous weeks a family facing divorce confronts the distances between the lives they think they want and the lives they have. The story unfolds with the author's trademark hilarity, inventiveness and irreverence.

Furst, Alan. **A Hero of France.** 2016. This suspenseful, fast-paced thriller captures war era, Nazi occupied France and the courageous members of the Resistance who outmaneuver collaborators, informers, blackmailers and spies, fulfilling dangerous clandestine missions.

Gilligan, Ruth. **Nine Folds Make A Paper Swan**. 2017. A brand new novel considers little known history. Three different characters from different eras intertwine to give a haunting portrait of what it means to belong in Ireland's all-but-forgotten Jewish community.

Glickman, Mary. **An Undisturbed Peace**. 2016. A freshly arrived Jewish immigrant from London gets involved with American history's infamous Trail of Tears. In this absorbing saga of love, courage and honor he bonds with a Cherokee spinster and a black slave.

Jacobson, Howard. **Shylock Is My Name**. 2016. A prize winning author brings his brilliance to a provocative, modern interpretation of Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* which culminates in a shocking twist on the famous demand for a pound of flesh. This ironic novel handles sharp questions of Jewish identity as it creates a spiritual kinship with its characters.

Kalla, Daniel. **Nightfall Over Shanghai**. 2016. Passion, espionage, and battlefield drama move to World War II's Pacific Theater and the Shanghai Ghetto where the Adler family live after fleeing Germany. Refugees, they must survive American bombs to reach Israel.

Kelly, Victoria. **Mrs. Houdini**. 2016. A lyrical novel reimagines the love story of magician Harry Houdini and his wife, Bess. They communicate after his death which sparks Bess to relive their past to solve a present mystery about Houdini's most remarkable feat of all.

Konar, Affinity. **Mischling**. 2016. In 1944 twin sisters Pearl and Stasha arrive at Auschwitz. They become part of the Mengele's twin experiments, stripped of their personalities, their identities altered. Pearl disappears. At Liberation, Stasha searches for her and their future.

Loigman, Linda. **The Two-Family House**. 2016. Brooklyn, a blizzard, and a brownstone for two-families mesh in a debut novel which invites us to share a long simmering secret. The family moves from suspicion to truth, then grapples with their discovery.

Oz, Amos. **Judas**. 2016. A famous Israeli author combines three misfits in an exquisite love story and a coming-of-age tale from which he creates a powerful allegory for the state of Israel and the biblical tale of the title.

Poliner, Elizabeth. **As Close To Us As Breathing**. 2016. Three sisters share a cottage on Connecticut's Bagel Beach. With children, without husbands, they revel in freedom. A terrible accident turns a carefree summer into a lifetime of grief, guilt, loss and atonement.

Richman, Alyson. **The Velvet Hours**. 2016. Inspired by the true account of an abandoned Parisian apartment, Solange is forced to leave her fabled grandmother's rich legacy to save all she loves. How Solange fares in Nazi-occupied Paris until war's end proves a gripping saga.

Shalev, Meir. **Two She-Bears**. 2016. Village love and vengeance in the early days of British Palestine still plays out two generations later. Three past suicides are actually two: one is a murder. Grit, humor, and magical evocation of Israeli rural life deliver this stunning tale.

Silva, Daniel. **Black Widow**. 2016. Gabriel Allon, art restorer, spy and assassin is about to become the chief of Israel's secret intelligence service. ISIS detonates a bomb in the Marais in Paris, luring him back into the field to eliminate the bomber before he strikes again.

Solomon, Anna. **Leaving Lucy Pear**. 2016. An unforgettable group of characters collide in New England during the roaring twenties. Beatrice, unwed daughter of wealthy Jewish industrialists, leaves her newborn at the foot of a pear tree, and watches as another woman claims the infant. Bea plans to leave her shameful secret behind, but finds she cannot.

Tremain, Rose. **The Gustav Sonata.** 2016. A close childhood friendship between a boy raised to be anti-Semitic and his Jewish friend who grows up to become a concert pianist is lost, transformed and regained. Winner National Jewish Book Award for Fiction.

Tsabari, Ayelet. **The Best Place on Earth.** 2016. In this award-winning debut collection 11 spellbinding short stories focus on Israel's Mizrahi Jews. Plots are global, yet feel intimate; endings are emotionally powerful; scenes are tender and sharply observed. Characters grapple with love, violence, faith and the slipperiness of identity.

Yehoshua, A.B. **The Extra.** 2016. A musician returns home to discover the rhythm of her life forever changed. Back in Jerusalem her brother helps her find jobs in movies, television and opera. She is always an extra in someone else's story, until she takes charge of the plot.

Yishai-Levi, Sarit. **The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem.** 2016. A dazzling novel uncovers the shocking secrets of four generations of women linked by the family curse, including 'the beauty queen' who proves there is more to her than painted toes and lips.

NON-FICTION BOOKS

Anton, Maggie. **Fifty Shades of Talmud: What the First Rabbis Had to Say About You-Know-What.** 2016. Take a lighthearted tour of sexuality in the Talmud through fifty chapters illustrated by cartoons. The book entertains and enlightens as it explains how sages dealt with delicate questions of sex, procreation and human desire.

Aronson, Josh. **Orchestra of Exiles.** 2016. Bronislaw Huberman, child prodigy violinist, used his celebrity to arrange for Jewish musicians and their families to flee the Nazis, saving ultimately nearly a thousand Jews. This compelling biography recalls his 1936 founding of the Palestine Symphony, now the Israel Philharmonic.

Bar-Joseph, Uri. **The Angel :The Egyptian Spy Who Saved Israel.** 2016. Thriller lovers grab this first English language book to tell the true, sensational story of Ashraf Marwan, a top Egyptian official who spied for the Mossad. He almost singlehandedly saved Israel from defeat in the Yom Kippur War.

Barnett, Michael. **The Star and the Stripes.** 2016. How do American Jews envision their role in the world? Are they tribal -- obligations are only to their own -- or prophetic -- a light unto nations working to repair the world? Here is a bold reading of the past, present, and possible future foreign policies of American Jews.

Frankel, Laura. **Jewish Cooking for All Seasons.** 2016. This first paperback edition offers more than 150 creative, convenient and seasonal kosher dishes. The recipes' blend of globe-spanning flavors and preparation ease are designed to be kosher, yet accessible to eaters of all backgrounds. Update your Jewish cooking

Friedman, Matti. **Pumpkin Flowers.** 2016. One small hilltop in Lebanon in a small war sends out ripples. The hill was called Pumpkin; *flowers* was military code for casualties. Young Israeli soldiers holding this remote outpost face a harrowing experience that changes them and Israel forever and foreshadows unwinnable conflicts the U.S. would soon confront.

Hoffman, Adina. **Till We Have Built Jerusalem.** 2016. A stunning volume presents a riveting, yet intimate journey into the very different lives of three architects who helped shape modern Jerusalem and Israel.

Holden, Wendy. **Born Survivors**. 2016. A remarkable true story celebrates three mothers who defied death to give their children life. With determination and luck three women survive Auschwitz and Mauthausen to deliver healthy infants who live to be liberated.

Horowitz, Roger. **Kosher USA : How Coke Became Kosher**. 2016. The book follows the fascinating journey of kosher food through the modern food system. It recounts how iconic products as Coca-Cola and Jell-O tried to become kosher. It includes rare archives, big personalities and surprising influences such as the Atlanta rabbi who made Coke kosher.

Ingall, Marjorie. **Mamaleh Knows Best**. 2016. Smashing stereotypes of hectoring, guilt-inducing, clingy mothers, this new volume blends personal anecdotes, historical texts, wit, and scientific research to share Jewish secrets for raising self-sufficient, accomplished and ethical children while maintaining a sense of humor.

Jabotinsky, Vladimir. **Vladimir Jabotinsky's Story of My Life**. 2016. A Zionist firebrand early supporting the State of Israel writes with charm about his happy-go-lucky Odessa youth, life as a foreign correspondent, founding of the Zion Mule Corps and his transition to Zionism. This is the first English translation since its original 1936 publication.

Mazzeo, Tilar. **Irena's Children**. 2016. Don't miss this new Holocaust biography, an extraordinarily gripping account of Irena Sendler, the "female Oskar Schindler." A social worker with access to the Warsaw ghetto, she reached out to trapped families. Her courageous risk saved 2500 children from deportation and death in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Mikics, David. **Bellow's People**. 2016. Explore the career of the famous, award-winning Saul Bellow through his real-life friendships. A member of a colorful, turbulent circle of mid-century American intellectuals, he transmuted them from fact into his fiction.

Rosen, Jeffrey. **Louis D. Brandeis**. 2016. Celebrate the centennial of Brandeis' confirmation to the US Supreme Court with a new examination of his progressive justice. Considered the most farseeing constitutional philosopher of the twentieth century, he was also the leader of the American Zionist movement who convinced President Wilson and the British to recognize a Jewish homeland in Palestine. We call him the "Jewish Jefferson."

Tigay, Chanan. **The Lost Book of Moses**. 2016. In 1883, Moses Shapira claimed to have discovered the oldest Bible scroll ever in a desert cave by the Dead Sea. He became famous until the scroll was declared a clever forgery. In 1947 the discovery of eerily similar Scrolls reopened his case. Had he found the first Dead Sea Scroll, seven decades before the rest?

Viorst, Milton. **Zionism**. 2016. Examine the evolution of Zionism from a refuge for the Jews in Europe to the leverage for Israel's control of occupied territories. Follow changes in the ideology's development under eight key leaders and share the risks Israel faces today.

Visotzky, Burton. **Aphrodite and the Rabbis**. 2016. With shocking arguments a Rabbi theorizes that Judaism's transformation from a Jerusalem-centered cult to a world religion was made possible by the Roman Empire. The Greco-Roman culture in which rabbinic Judaism grew in the first five centuries CE nurtured the Judaism we observe today. Visotzky presents fascinating details about daily life in these early Jewish communities

Wouk, Herman. **Sailor and Fiddler: Reflections of a 100-Year-Old Author**. 2016. Herman Wouk reflects on the life experiences that inspired his most enduring novels. From *The Caine Mutiny* and *Marjorie Morningstar* to *The Winds of War* he muses about writing, faith and his career which NPR says made American literature a kinder, smarter, better place.

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ajula.worldcat.org

Sinai Temple Blumenthal Library

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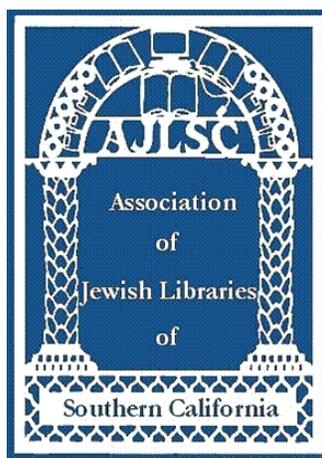
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