NONFICTION

Ackerman, Diane. ***The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story.*** W.W. Norton, 2007. Ackerman retells the remarkable story of righteous gentiles Jan Zabinski, the director of the Warsaw Zoo, and his wife, Antonina, who courageously sheltered 300 Jews and Polish resisters.

Alter, Robert. ***The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary*.** W.W. Norton, 2007. Alter's beautiful translation is accompanied by his insightful and scholarly commentary.

Aly, Gotz. ***Hitler's Beneficiaries: Plunder, Racial War, and the Nazi Welfare State.*** Metropolitan Books, 2007. Historian Aly's important and original contribution to Holocaust research posits that Hitler gained support from the Germans by a systematic program of theft and redistribution of wealth.

Antler, Joyce. ***You Never Call! You Never Write! A History of the Jewish Mother.*** Oxford University Press, 2007. This comprehensive and scholarly study of the stereotype of the Jewish mother in American popular culture is an amusing and enlightening read.

Ansh, Tamar. ***A Taste of Challah: A Comprehensive Guide to Challah and Bread Baking.*** Feldheim, 2007. More than just another cookbook, this sumptuously illustrated guide contains everything you need to know about challah, with recipes that range from simple to exotic.

Auslander, Shalom. ***Foreskin's Lament: A Memoir***. Riverhead, 2007. Raised as an Orthodox Jew who describes his upbringing as "theological abuse," Auslander agonizes over whether to circumsize his soon-to-be-born son, reconsiders his dysfunctional childhood, and struggles between temptation and faith with scathing comic wit.

Benvenisti, Meron. ***Son of the Cypresses: Memories, Reflections, and Regrets from a Political Life.*** Translated by Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta. University of California Press, 2007. The politician/ columnist/scholar mixes tales of his Salonika-born Zionist father and his idyllic *sabra* youth with his controversial interpretation of Israel's history and future.

Bernstein, Harry. ***The Invisible Wall: A Love Story That Broke Barriers***. Ballantine Books, 2007. Written when the author was 93, this memoir is set in pre World War I England, where the author's working-class neighborhood was divided by an invisible line between the Jewish side and the Christian side.

Biro, Adam. ***One Must Also Be Hungarian***. Translated by Catherine Tihanyi. University of Chicago Press, 2007. Written by a Hungarian-born French author and publisher, this slim elegiac volume reflects on the 200-year history and the memorable characters of a Hungarian-Jewish family.

Blumberg, Ilana. ***Houses of Study: A Jewish Woman among Books***. University of Nebraska Press, 2007. Blumberg's well-written feminist memoir is an intimate spiritual portrait of a young woman attracted to both Talmud study and secular literature, and the limitations imposed by her position as an Orthodox woman.

Buhle, Paul, ed. ***Jews and American Popular Culture***. (Praeger Perspectives) Praeger, 2007. This handsome three-volume reference set presents a scholarly, yet accessible, survey of the history of Jewish involvement in American pop culture.

Chafets, Zev. ***A Match Made In Heaven*: *American Jews, Christian Zionists, and One Man's Exploration of the Weird and Wonderful Judeo-Evangelical Alliance.*** HarperCollins, 2007. A journalist with impressive career credentials, Chafets travels across America to explore the unlikely and uneasy alliance between Jews and evangelical Christians.

Elkins, Dov Peretz. ***The Wisdom of Judaism: An Introduction to the Values of the Talmud.*** Jewish Lights, 2007. Rabbi Elkins adds his commentary to the commentaries, and focuses on the Talmud's teachings for ethical human behavior.

Finkelstein, Norman H. ***American Jewish History: A JPS Guide.*** Jewish Publication Society, 2007. Written for the layperson, this engaging history book covers American Jewish history from the discovery of America through the end of the 20th century.

Fishman, Sylvia Barack. ***The Way Into the Varieties of Jewishness.*** (The Way Into) Jewish Lights, 2007. The latest title in this series of accessible guidebooks to Judaism presents an introduction to the many ways Jews understand Jewishness and identify themselves and their communities.

Franks, Lucinda. ***My Father's Secret War: A Memoir.*** Miramax, 2007. As her elderly father slips into dementia, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Lucinda Franks discovers a long hidden part of his life.

Friedlander, Saul. ***The Years of Extermination: Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1939-1945.*** HarperCollins, 2007. In the second volume of his essential history of Nazi Germany, Friedlander provides a vivid description of European Jewish life in its most tragic period.

Gold, Dore. ***The Fight for Jerusalem: Radical Islam, the West, and the Future of the Holy City***. Regnery Publishing, 2007. Authored by the former Israeli ambassador to the UN, this book is a thoroughly researched, historically accurate account of the history and politics of Jerusalem, but a very strident diatribe against the dangers of Palestinian control over any piece of Jerusalem or its suburbs.

Gruber, Ruth. ***Witness: One of the Great Correspondents of the Twentieth Century Tells Her Story*.** NY: Schocken, 2007. Ninety-five-year-old Ruth Gruber can still tell a great story, and this time it is the story of her adventures becoming a journalist and reporting the great events in the life of the Jewish people in the 20th century.

Isaacson, Walter. ***Einstein: His Life and Universe.*** Simon & Schuster, 2007. Acclaimed biographer Isaacson examines the remarkable life of the famous scientist in this lucid account.

Kaplan, Beth. ***Finding the Jewish Shakespeare: The Life and Legacy of Jacob Gordin.*** Syracuse University Press, 2007. Beth Kaplan explores the contributions of her great-grandfather Jacob Gordin, reformer and playwright, during the Golden Age of Yiddish Theater from 1891-1910.

Lagnado, Lucette. ***The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: My Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World.*** Ecco, 2007. Lagnado's vivid portrait of her father is also an evocative elegy to the cultural harmony among Cairo's Jews, Arabs, and colonials during the early 20th century.

Morinis, Alan. ***Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar*.** Trumpeter, 2007. The Jewish spiritual tradition of Mussar, a set of teachings designed to cultivate personal growth, is explained in this new book.

Newhouse, Alana, Ed. ***A Living Lens: Photographs of Jewish Life from the Pages of the Forward.*** W.W. Norton, 2007. This extraordinary volume features classic photographs of Lower East Side pushcarts, Yiddish theater, labor rallies, and other gems published in *The Forward*.

Ochs, Vanessa. ***Inventing Jewish Ritual: New American Traditions.*** Jewish Publication Society, 2007. The author invites her readers to explore how Jewish practice can be more meaningful through renewing, reshaping, and even creating new rituals, such as blessings for newborn daughters, Miriam's cup, becoming an elder, and more.

Schorsch, Ismar. ***Canon without Closure: Torah Commentaries.*** Aviv Press, 2007. Each commentary in this landmark collection by an influential leader and scholar draws upon the author's wide breadth of Jewish scholarship, Talmudic teachings, and inspirational personal insights.

Segev, Tom. ***1967: Israel, the War, and the Year that Transformed the Middle East.*** Translated by Jessica Cohen. Metropolitan Books, 2007. The newest of the hundreds of books published about the Six-Day War aims to put the event in the broad context of international politics, while painting a complete picture of Israel before and after the War.

Wilson, Jonathan. ***Marc Chagall.*** (Jewish Encounters) Schocken, 2007. Novelist Wilson illuminates the mysteries of Chagall's works in a fresh and lively way.

Wisse, Ruth R. ***Jews and Power.*** (Jewish Encounters) Schocken, 2007. The noted author presents a radical new way of viewing the Jewish relation to political power and describes the strategies, developed in the Diaspora, that have led to failed policy in the Jewish state.

Zucotti, Susan. ***Holocaust Odysseys: The Jews of Saint-Martin-Vesubie and Their Flight Through France and Italy*.** Yale University Press, 2007. Zuccotti explores the dramatic stories of nine Jewish families in 1943 who were displaced to this French mountain village and their perseverance to survive Vichy France and German-occupied Italy.

FICTION

Andrzejewski, Jerzy. ***Holy Week: A Novel of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising***. (Polish and Polish-American Studies) Ohio University Press, 2007. Published in Polish in 1945 and newly translated into English, Andrzejewski's novel dramatically portrays the abandonment of the Jews to Nazi persecution by the dominant Polish society in Warsaw.

Anton, Maggie. ***Rashi's Daughters: Book II: Miriam***. Plume, 2007. This second book in the trilogy continues the portrayal of daily life for Jewish women in Medieval France, as seen through the eyes of Miriam, midwife and headstrong daughter of Talmud scholar Rabbi Salomon ben Isaac (Rashi).

Appelfeld, Aharon. ***All Whom I Have Loved.*** Translated by Aloma Halter. Schocken Books, 2007. Appelfeld's newest novel to be translated into English tells the haunting story of nine-year-old Paul Rosenfeld and his family in Eastern Europe in the 1930's.

Begley, Louis. ***Matters of Honor.*** Knopf, 2007. In the 1950's, three Harvard roommates struggle with loyalty, integrity, and status pressures in school and in the ensuing years. One of the roommates, Henry, is a Polish refugee who survived World War II in hiding and continues to battle anti-Semitism at every turn.

Bloom, Amy. ***Away***. Random House, 2007. A young immigrant woman stops at nothing in her quest across continents to find her daughter, whom she thought perished in a pogrom that killed her husband and parents.

Chabon, Michael. ***The Yiddish Policemen's Union***. HarperCollins, 2007. What if Sitka Alaska became a Jewish homeland, and not the British Mandate in Palestine? It is now six decades later, and Sitka, which has grown prosperous under the Yiddish speaking Jews, is reverting back to Alaska.

Danford, Natalie. ***Inheritance***. St. Martin's Press, 2007. This engaging first novel takes readers from present-day America to Italy during World War II, as a daughter learns her father's secrets after his death.

Elon, Emuna. ***If You Awaken Love***. Toby Press, 2007. Translated by David Hazony. Shlomtzion, a 40-year-old interior designer living in Tel Aviv, has fled the Orthodox world after her childhood sweetheart broke off their engagement because his rabbi refused them his blessing. Now, years later, she is forced to confront her old flame and re-examine her emotions and her religious and political beliefs.

Englander, Nathan. ***The Ministry of Special Cases***. Knopf, 2007. In his first book since the short story collection, *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges*, Englander explores the erasure of identity among a Jewish family living in Buenos Aires in 1976, the time of the country's "dirty war," when suspected political subversives were kidnapped by the Argentine security forces and "disappeared."

Etzioni-Halevy, Eva. ***The Garden of Ruth***. Plume, 2007. Etzioni-Halevy's imaginative second novel focuses on the biblical story of Ruth.

Havazelet, Ehud. ***Bearing the Body.*** Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007. Nathan Mirsky and his father Sol, a surly Holocaust survivor, travel to San Francisco in an effort to come to terms with the death of free-spirited Daniel, the estranged brother and son whose complicated life and violent death force his survivors to examine their own troubled histories.

Judah, Sophie. ***Dropped from Heaven: Stories***. Schocken, 2007. This debut collection of stories illuminates the little known community of Bene Israel in India.

Levi, Primo. ***A Tranquil Star: Unpublished Stories.*** Translated by Ann Goldstein and Alessandra Bastagli. W.W. Norton, 2007. The first new American collection of fiction by the Italian chemist and Holocaust survivor gathers seventeen stories previously published in Italian between 1949 and 1986.

Litman, Ellen. ***The Last Chicken in America: A Novel in Stories.*** Norton, 2007. Set in Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh, Litman joins a wave of recent Soviet Jewish immigrant authors in portraying the lives of their fellow refugees adapting (or not) to American life.

Lowenthal, Michael. ***Charity Girl***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. The Committee on Prevention of Social Evils Surrounding Military Camps imprisons Frieda Mintz, a 17-year-old Jewish shopgirl from Boston, when her first encounter with a soldier turns from idealistic love into a nightmare of bureaucracy and medical mistreatment during World War I.

Mekler, Eva. ***The Polish Woman***. Bridge Works Publishing, 2007. In 1967 Manhattan, 29-year old Karolina Staszek suddenly appears in Jewish attorney Philip Landau's office, claiming to be his long-lost cousin who was hidden by a Catholic family in Lublin, Poland, during the Holocaust.

Mendelson, Charlotte. ***When We Were Bad.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2007. To all appearances, the Rubin family of London is perfect. However, the façade is about to crumble in this humorous and sympathetic portrait of a family in crisis.

Modan, Rutu. ***Exit Wounds***. Drawn & Quarterly, 2007. Modan's first full-length graphic novel centers on Koby, a taxi driver in Tel Aviv, and Numi, a young soldier who draws Koby into her efforts to find Koby's father, her former lover, who may have been a victim of a suicide bombing.

Nahai, Gina B. ***Caspian Rain.*** MacAdam Cage, 2007. This story of a haunted Jewish family in Tehran during the last years of the shah focuses on the disastrous marriage of impoverished Bahar and wealthy Omid.

Nassib, Selim. ***The Palestinian Lover.*** Translated by Alison Anderson. Europa Editions, 2007. Originally published in French, this sharply observed novel tells the love story between a young Golda Meir and the son of a rich Palestinian family.

Ragen, Naomi. ***The Saturday Wife***. St. Martin's Press, 2007. Delilah Goldgrab is a Queen's Yeshiva girl who relinquishes her dream of living in luxury when she becomes a rebbitzin and must face the challenges within her marriage and the modern Orthodox community.

Rakoff, Alvin. ***Baldwin Street***. Bunim & Bannigan, 2007. Rakoff's novel is set in Toronto during the Depression, with a cast of characters who are members of the tightly-knit Jewish immigrant community.

Reich, Tova. ***My Holocaust.*** HarperCollins, 2007. A scathing satire on the trivialization of the Holocaust, Reich's novel will infuriate more than a few groups of aspiring victims.

Roth, Philip. ***Exit Ghost***. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. In this 9th installment of the Zuckerman saga, Nathan deals with the ravages of age, an obsession with a beautiful, wealthy young Texan, and a scandalous new biography of his mentor, E.I. Lonoff, the subject of the first Zuckerman novel, *The Ghost Writer*.

Schwarzschild, Edward. ***The Family Diamond: Stories.*** Algonquin Books, 2007. Set in Philadelphia, these nine scintillating stories by the author of *Responsible Men* explore the bonds that both create and dissolve family relationships.

Segal, Lore. ***Shakespeare's Kitchen: Stories.*** New Press, 2007. Segal's wonderfully realized stories center on Ilka Weisz and her relationship with the dysfunctional family that is formed by her intellectual co-workers at the Concordance think tank.

Silva, Daniel. ***The Secret Servant.*** Putnam, 2007. Israeli operative Gabriel Allon returns in this entertaining new thriller to fight terrorism and hunt down the kidnappers of the goddaughter of the president of the United States.

Sofer, Dalia. ***The Septembers of Shiraz.*** Ecco, 2007. After Isaac Amin is arrested for the "crime" of being Jewish in post-revolutionary Iran, he and his family endure the nightmare that has transformed their country and made them outcasts. The author's family fled Iran after the Islamist revolution and this riveting first novel vibrates with the immediacy of lived experience.

Ulinich, Anya. ***Petropolis***. Viking, 2007. Sasha Goldberg, a bi-racial Jewish teenager living in Asbestos 2, escapes her dying Siberian town and her overbearing mother to search for her father in America.

Yahia, Mona. ***When the Grey Beetles Took Over Baghdad.*** Braziler, 2007. Winner of the Jewish Quarterly-Wingate Prize for Fiction, this vivid and personal story of growing up Jewish in Baghdad is set against the backdrop of political upheaval and an increasingly fractured society.

Yizhar, S. ***Preliminaries.*** Translated by Nicholas de Lange. Toby Press, 2007. Written in 1991 and recently translated into English, this autobiographical novel of a young boy growing up in Palestine in the 20s and 30s marked the final flowering of the great novelist's *oeuvre*.

DVDS

Anti-Semitism in the 21st century: The Resurgence. Two Cats Production, 2006, 2007, DVD, 60 minutes. Presents research and reports in a documentary format about the resurgence of anti-Semitism worldwide. Of particular note is the rise in anti-Semitic rhetoric in the political and public arenas as well as the mainstream media.

Forgiving Dr. Mengele. First Run Features, 2007, DVD, 60 minutes. Holocaust survivor Eva Mozes Kor takes the controversial stance of publicly granting forgiveness to her Nazi persecutors. Kor and her twin sister Miriam were selected by Dr. Josef Mengele to be subjects in his cruel human experiments.

The Last Fighters. Tel Aviv, 2006, DVD, 76 minutes. Hebrew with English subtitles, Yiddish and Polish. This film documents the memories of the last six surviving Warsaw Ghetto uprising fighters. Their understanding of the events in retrospect 60 years later are different and far more complex than what has settled into the collective memory.

Six Days in June. WGBH Educational Foundation, 2007, DVD, 108 minutes. Distributed on the 40th anniversary of the Six-Day War and based on new research and newly declassified documents, this film brings a current perspective to the weeks that preceded the war, its six days of fighting, and the aftermath.

West Bank Story. Ari Sandel, 2006, DVD, 22 minutes. A musical comedy set in the fast-paced, fast-food world of competing falafel stands in the West Bank. David, an Israeli soldier, falls in love with the beautiful Palestinian cashier, Fatima, despite the animosity between their families' dueling restaurants.

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