**ONLINE LIBRARY CATALOGS**

- Ostrow and Sperber Libraries at the American Jewish University
  ajula.worldcat.org
- Sinai Temple Blumenthal Library
  library.sinaitemple.org
- Valley Beth Shalom Sheila Sporn Library
  vbs.org/library
- Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives
  wiesenthal.com/library
- Hebrew Union College Frances Henry Library
  huc.edu/research/libraries/los-angeles

**INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS OF AJLSC**

- Adat Ari El Weber Library
- American Jewish University Ostrow and Sperber Libraries
- Hebrew Union College Frances-Henry Library
- Sephardic Temple Levy Library
- Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives
- Sinai Temple Blumenthal Library
- Stephen S. Wise Temple Diener and Kadner Families Library
- Temple Beth Am Pressman Academy Lainer Library
- Temple Isaiah Eugene B. Levine Memorial Library
- Valley Beth Shalom Sheila Sporn Library

**Compiled by**

- Blumenthal Library Staff, Sinai Temple
- Ellen G. Cole, Levine Library, Temple Isaiah

For further information, see our website:

www.ajlsc.org

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**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 Stödl. 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 bitserve 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.
FICTION BOOKS

Attenberg, Jami. Saint Mazie. 2015. A Jazz Age party girl wins up a ticket-taker in a Lower East Side movie theater by day, but plays angel at night helping burn babies and stiffs sleeping on the streets. In this historical novel based on the real Depression-era Mazie Gordon, saintliness 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 Betrayeurs. 2014. Winner of the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction. Escaping opponents in a Crimean resort town, disgraced Israeli politician Baruch Kosher turns into a former friend who had him sent to the gulag forty years earlier.

Blutter, 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 Edel 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 the modern-day Manhattan, follow the threads of an enchanting tapestry of love, history and fate.


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


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.

Pearlm, 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 delusive, 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.

Roijstaczer, 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. Stirring shiva they tip 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 idealized 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 book sets in the forgotten world of New York’s Jewish orphans 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?

Vinson, 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 coveting, complex Bible characters.

Chait, 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, a rabbi. Topics vary from parenting to self-improvement to aging, adversity, sports, second chances and more.


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.


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!

Isernberg, Barbara. Tradition. 2014. Celebrate Fiddler on the Roof’s 50th anniversary with a lively chronicle of the famed Broadway show. Isernberg 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.