

Recommended Reads: The Latest and Greatest in Jewish Fiction for Adults

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Description: Over one hundred works of fiction with Jewish content are published each year by mainstream, Jewish, and small, independent presses. So many books, so little time! How do we sift through the good, the great, and the not-so-great? How can reading books with Jewish characters and themes help educate, enlighten, and inspire us? What are Jewish book groups reading? What are the new trends in the Jewish publishing world? What are the major Jewish literary awards? Explore the latest and greatest in Jewish fiction for adult readers and come prepared to share some of your favorite new titles.

Rachel Kamin has worked as a synagogue librarian for over eighteen years and is currently the Director of the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, IL. She serves as the Book Review Editor for Children & Teens for *The Association of Jewish Libraries Newsletter* and contributes articles and book reviews to *BookLinks*, *School Library Journal*, *Jewish Book World*, *Judaica Librarianship*, and *AJL Reviews*. She has facilitated Beth El's Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club since 2009 and also facilitates groups for the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership (Chicago, IL), McHenry County Jewish Congregation (Crystal Lake, IL), Congregation Sukkat Shalom (Wilmette, IL) and Congregation Etz Chaim (Lombard, IL). Kamin holds a BA in history from Grinnell College and a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Ellen Tilman is the Director of Library Services at the Meyers Library of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, PA. She has served as the Editor of the Congregation's Bulletin and Israel Coordinator. She is the leader of the library's Adult Book Discussion Group and is a member of two other book groups. At the Meyers Library, she conducts an active program of story hours for children and author visits for adults. She was recently appointed to serve on the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee. She leads a session on "What's New in Jewish Books" at the Ramah Darom Passover Camp in Clayton, GA. Tilman has a BA in Political Science from Goucher College; a Master of Social Service Degree in Social Planning from Bryn Mawr College; and an MBA in Organizational Behavior and Industrial Relations from the Kellogg School at Northwestern University.

Judy Weidman has been the Temple Librarian at Hyman Judah Schachtel Library at Congregation Beth Israel in Houston, TX for nine years. She oversees the Adult and Juvenile Judaica collections and leads the Beth Israel Readers' Group which meets monthly year-round. The Readers' Group has developed a reputation in the Houston community and is attended by congregants as well as the wide Jewish community. She serves on the Adult Education and History Committees of Beth Israel and has been active in the Ner Tamid project, which is utilizing archival materials from the Library. Judy's past library experience has been Houston Public Library and school and medical libraries. She also had a second career as sales representative for El Al Israel Airlines. Judy hosted the 2013 Houston AJL Conference and worked on the Accreditation Committee of AJL.