

**The Best New Fiction for Adult Readers:  
A Presentation by the AJL Jewish Fiction Award Committee  
*Yermiyahu Ahron Taub, Rachel Kamin, Rosalind Reisner,  
Merrily Hart, Sheryl Stahl, Scott Nadelson, Mark Sarvas***

**Description:** Over 100 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 the new trends in the Jewish publishing world? Explore the latest and greatest in Jewish fiction for adult readers with the members of the AJL Fiction Award Committee and come prepared to share some of your favorite new titles. Our special guests will be two of the three 2019 award winners: Mark Sarvas, author of *Memento Park*, and Scott Nadelson, author of *The Fourth Corner of the World*.

**Jeremiah Aaron Taub** is the Head of the Israel and Judaica Section at the Library of Congress, the Chairperson of the AJL Jewish Fiction Award committee, and the President of the Capital Area Chapter of AJL (AJL/CAC). Under the name **Yermiyahu Ahron Taub**, he is the author of the short story collection *Prodigal Children in the House of G-d* (2018) and six books of poetry, including *A moyzn tsvishn vakldike volkn-kratsers: geklibene Yidishe lider/A Mouse Among Tottering Skyscrapers: Selected Yiddish Poems* (2017). His short stories have appeared in numerous publications, including *Hamilton Stone Review*, *Jewish Fiction .net*, *Jewrotica*, *Oyster River Pages*, and *Second Hand Stories Podcast*. With Ellen Cassedy, he was the winner of the 2012 Yiddish Book Center Translation Prize for *Oedipus in Brooklyn and Other Stories* by Blume Lempel (2016). Visit his website at [www.yataub.net](http://www.yataub.net).

**Rachel Kamin** has been a synagogue librarian for over twenty years and has worked as the Director of the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, IL since 2008. She currently serves on the AJL New Jewish Fiction Award Committee and contributes articles and book reviews to *BookLinks*, *School Library Journal*, *Jewish Book World*, *Judaica Librarianship*, *Library Journal*, and *AJL Reviews*. She facilitates the Sisterhood Book Club at NSS Beth El and also leads book discussions at several synagogues and organizations across the Chicago area. Rachel holds a BA in history from Grinnell College and a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Michigan.

**Rosalind Reisner** is a librarian and the author of *Jewish American Literature: A Guide to Reading Interests* (winner of the 2004 AJL Judaica Reference Award) and most recently co-editor and contributing author to *Women in the Literary Landscape: A WNBA Centennial Publication* (2017, C&R Press). She has worked in public, academic and synagogue libraries. From 2010-2014, she chaired the reading committee for the Great Group Reads list of National Reading Group Month titles. Rosalind speaks and writes about Jewish American literature, readers' advisory services and books for book groups. Her website/blog, <http://areadersplace.net>, is a resource for fiction and nonfiction.

**Sheryl Stahl** is the Director of the Frances-Henry Library at the Los Angeles campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She is an active member of AJL and has served two terms each as Vice President of Membership and as Treasurer. She currently serves as the AJL webmaster. This past year, she presented a webinar on behalf of AJL and ALA on cataloging Jewish Sacred texts and another on cataloging Jewish history. When she is not busying herself with library work, she texts her children, reads science fiction, and chases butterflies around her garden.