Non-Fiction Favorites
from the Sophie Brody Book Award Committee

Barbara Bibel, Sean Boyle, Rachel Fryd, Rachel Kamin & Adela Peskorz

Association of Jewish Libraries Conference 2023
American Library Association

Sophie Brody Medal

https://rusaupdate.org/awards/sophie-brody-medal/

“to encourage, recognize and commend outstanding achievement in Jewish literature”
One Hundred Saturdays:
Stella Levi and the Search for a Lost World
by Michael Frank; art by Maira Kalman
Avid Reader Press, 2022

See also:

Read-Alikes:
When the Cypress Whispers by Yvette Manessis Corporon
Greece: A Jewish History by K.E. Fleming
When I Grow Up: The Lost Autobiographies of Six Yiddish Teenagers by Ken Krimstein
The Escape Artist:
The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World
by Jonathan Freedland
HarperCollins, 2022 *paperback available*

See also:
Bring Home the Revolution: The Case for a British Republic (1998) and Jacob’s Gift (2005) plus The Righteous Men (2006), the “Maggie Costello” series and other thrillers under the pseudonym Sam Bourne

Read-Alikes:
The Ravine by Wendy Lower
When Time Stopped by Ariana Neumann
The Boy Who Followed His Father into Auschwitz by Jeremy Dronfield

2023 Sophie Brody Honorable Mention
2022 National Jewish Book Award: Biography & Holocaust Winner
2023 Wingate Prize Long List
On Repentance and Repair: 
Making Amends in an Unapologetic World
by Danya Ruttenberg 
Beacon Press, 2022 *paperback available 9/2023*

See also: 
Nurture the Wow (2016), Surprised by God: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Religion (2008), and Yentl’s Revenge: The Next Wave of Jewish Feminism (2001)

Read-Alikes: 
Maimonides: Essential Teachings on Jewish Faith and Ethics by Marc Angel
Sorry, Sorry, Sorry: The Case for Good Apologies by Marjorie Ingall & Susan McCarthy
Maimonides: Faith in Reason by Alberto Manguel
Repentance: The Meaning & Practice of Teshuvah by Louis E. Newman

2023 Sophie Brody Honorable Mention 
2022 National Jewish Book Award: 
Contemporary Jewish Life & Practice
The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land: Stories by Omer Friedlander
Random House, 2022
*paperback available 6/27/2023

Read-Alikes:
Fly Already: Stories by Etgar Keret
To Be a Man: Stories by Nicole Krauss
Three Floors Up by Eshkol Nevo
The Best Place on Earth by Ayelet Tsabari

2023 Sophie Brody Honorable Mention
2023 AJL Fiction Award Winner
The Latecomer
by Jean Hanff Korelitz
Celadon Books, 2022 *paperback available*

See also:

Read-Alikes:
Fleishman Is in Trouble by Taffy Brodesser-Akner
Waking Lions by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen
Signal Fires by Dani Shapiro
All Adults Here by Emma Straub

2023 Sophie Brody Honorable Mention
Non-Fiction Favorites: Biographies
The Only Woman in the Room:
Golda Meir and Her Path to Power
by Pnina Lahav
Princeton University Press, 2022

See also:

Read-Alikes:
The Prime Ministers by Yehuda Avner
Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel by Francine Klagsbrun
Golda Meir: A Reference Guide to Her Life and Works by Golda Meir
The Women of Rothschild: The Untold Story of the World’s Most Famous Dynasty by Natalie Livingstone
St. Martin’s Press, 2022

See also:
The Mistresses of Cliveden: Three Centuries of Scandal, Power, and Intrigue in an English Stately Home (2016)

Read-Alikes:
The First Mrs. Rothschild by Sarah Aharoni
The Rothschilds: A Family Portrait by Frederic Morton
House of Gold by Natasha Solomons

2023 Wingate Prize Long List
The Sassoons: 
The Great Global Merchants and the Making of an Empire
by Joseph Sassoon
Pantheon Books, 2022

See also:
Anatomy of Authoritarianism in the Arab Republics (2016)
The Iraqi Refugees: The New Crisis in the Middle East (2009)

Read-Alikes:
Bernardine’s Shanghai Salon: The Story of the Doyenne of Old China
by Susan Blumberg-Kason (11/2023)
The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China by Jonathan Kaufman
The First Lady of Fleet Street: The Life of Rachel Beer by Eilat Negev and Yehuda Koren

2022 National Jewish Book Award: Sephardic Culture Finalist
Mel Brooks: Disobedient Jew
by Jeremy Dauber
Yale University Press, 2023

See also:
American Comics: A History (2021)
Jewish Comedy: A Serious History (2017)
The Worlds of Sholem Aleichem (2013)

Read-Alikes:
All About Me! My Remarkable Life in Show Business by Mel Brooks
Funny Man: Mel Brooks by Patrick McGilligan
Mel Brooks: A Little Golden Book Biography
   by Christy Mihaly, illustrated by Kelly Kennedy (1/2024)

Part of the “Jewish Lives” series:
https://www.jewishlives.org/
Maimonides: Faith in Reason
by Alberto Manguel
Yale University Press, 2023

See also:
Packing My Library: An Elegy and Ten Digressions (2018)
Curiosity (2015)
The Traveler, the Tower, and the Worm: The Reader As Metaphor (2013)
All Men Are Liars (2012)
A History of Reading (1996)

Read-Alikes:
Rules to Live by: The Wisdom of Maimonides by Jeffrey Katz (8/2023)
On Repentance and Repair by Danya Ruttenberg

Part of the “Jewish Lives” series:
https://www.jewishlives.org/
More New Entries to the “Jewish Lives” Series:
https://www.jewishlives.org/

Elie Wiesel: Confronting the Silence by Joseph Berger
Arthur Miller: American Witness by John Lahr
Becoming Elijah: Prophet of Transformation by Daniel C. Matt
Sidney Reilly: Master Spy by Benny Morris
Ruth: A Migrant's Tale by Ilana Pardes
Admiral Hyman Rickover: Engineer of Power by Marc Wortman
Non-Fiction Favorites: Memoir
Departure Stories:
Betty Crocker Made Matzoh Balls (and other lies)
by Elisa Bernick
Indiana University Press, 2022
*in paperback*

Read-Alikes:
White Walls : A Memoir About Motherhood, Daughterhood, and the Mess in Between by Judy Batalion
Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant? by Roz Chast
Shanda: A Memoir of Shame and Secrecy by Letty Cottin Pogrebin
Have You No Shame? And Other Regrettable Stories by Rachel Shukert
When I Grow Up:
The Lost Autobiographies of Six Yiddish Teenagers
by Ken Krimstein
Bloomsbury, 2021

See also:
Kvetch As Kvetch Can: Jewish Cartoons (2010)

Read-Alikes:
Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation by Ari Folman; illustrated by David Polonsky
One Hundred Saturdays by Michael Frank; art by Maira Kalman
Belonging: A German Reckons with History and Home by Nora Krug
Maus by Art Spiegelman
The Best Strangers in the World: Stories from a Life Spent Listening
by Ari Shapiro
HarperOne, 2023

Read-Alikes:
Lot Six by David Adjmi
All I Did Was Ask by Terry Gross
Koshersoul:
The Faith and Food Journey of an African American Jew
by Michael W. Twitty
Amistad Press, 2022
*paperback available 8/2023*

See also:
Rice: A Savor the South Cookbook (2021)
The Cooking Gene: A Journey Through African American Culinary History in the Old South (2017)

2022 National Jewish Book Award: Book of the Year
More New Memoirs:

As Figs in Autumn by Ben Bastomski (7/2023)
The Wrong Kind of Jew by Hen Mazzig

Shanda by Letty Cottin Pogrebin

Three Worlds by Avi Shlaim (7/2023)
Immigrant Baggage by Maxim D. Shrayer

Dinners with Ruth by Nina Totenberg

The Wandering Womb by S. L. Wisenberg
Non-Fiction Favorites: Holocaust
The School that Escaped the Nazis:
The True Story of the Schoolteacher Who Defied Hitler
by Deborah Cadbury
Public Affairs, 2022

See also:
Queen Victoria’s Matchmaking (2017)
Princes at War (2015)
Chocolate Wars (2010)
Space Race (2006)
Dreams of Iron and Steel (2004)
The Lost King of France (2002)

2022 National Jewish Book Award: Holocaust Finalist
The Island of Extraordinary Captives:
A Painter, a Poet, an Heiress, and a Spy in a World War II British Internment Camp
by Simon Parkin
Scribner, 2022 *paperback available 10/31/2023

See also:
A Game of Birds and Wolves: The Ingenious Young Women Whose Secret Board Game Helped Win World War II (2020) and Death by Video Game: Danger, Pleasure, and Obsession on the Virtual Frontline (2016)

Read-Alikes:
The School that Escaped the Nazis by Deborah Cadbury
Into the Arms of Strangers by Mark Jonathan Harris and Deborah Oppenheimer

2023 Wingate Prize Winner
The Diary Keepers:
World War II in the Netherlands, As Written by the People Who Lived Through It
by Nina Siegal
Ecco Press, 2023

See also:
You'll Thank Me for This (2021)
The Anatomy Lesson (2014)
A Little Trouble With the Facts (2008)
The American Way:
A True Story of Nazi Escape, Superman, and Marilyn Monroe
by Helene Stapinski & Bonnie Siegler
Simon & Schuster, 2023
*paperback available*

See also:

Speaking Yiddish to Chickens: Holocaust Survivors on South Jersey Poultry Farms
by Seth Stern
Rutgers University Press, 2023
*in paperback*

Read-Alikes:
Comrades and Chicken Ranchers: The Story of a California Jewish Community
by Kenneth Kann
More World War II/Holocaust Non-Fiction:

*Gangsters vs. Nazis* by Michael Benson
*Lily's Promise* by Lily Ebert
*Time's Echo* by Jeremy Eichler (8/2023)
*Sing, Memory* by Makana Eyre
*The Watchmakers* by Harry Lenga & Scott Lenga
*Overture of Hope* by Isabel Vincent
Non-Fiction Favorites:

History
The Cost of Free Land:
Jews, Lakota, and an American Inheritance
by Rebecca Clarren
Viking Press, 10/2023

See Also:
Kickdown (2018)

Read-Alikes:
Jews, Slaves, and the Slave Trade by Eli Faber
The Guarded Gate: Bigotry, Eugenics, and the Law That Kept Two Generations of Jews, Italians, and Other European Immigrants Out of America by Daniel Okrent
On Repentance and Repair by Danya Ruttenberg
Bad Jews:
A History of American Jewish Politics and Identities
by Emily Tamkin
HarperCollins, 2022

See also:
The Influence of Soros: Politics, Power, and the Struggle for an Open Society (2020)

Read-Alikes:
Looking for an Enemy: 8 Essays on Antisemitism edited by Jo Glanville
People Love Dead Jews by Dara Horn
The Chosen Wars: How Judaism Became an American Religion by Steven Weisman
More New Non-Fiction
in celebration of Israel’s 75th

We Are Not One: A History of America’s Fight Over Israel by Eric Alterman
Israel 201 by Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt
Impossible Takes Longer by Daniel Gordis
The Land of Hope and Fear by Isabel Kershner
The Arc of a Covenant by Walter Russell Mead
Twelve Tribes: Promise and Peril in the New Israel by Ethan Michaeli
More Non-Fiction Award Winners:

*Feeding Women of the Talmud, Feeding Ourselves* by Kenden Alfond
  *2022 National Jewish Book Award: Natan Notable Book*

see also *Kosher Macros: 63 Recipes for Eating Everything Kosher for Physical Health and Emotional Balance* (9/2023)

*Come to This Court and Cry: How the Holocaust Ends* by Linda Kinstler
  *2023 Wingate Prize Shortlist*

*Literary Mafia: Jews Publishing and Postwar American Literature* by Josh Lambert
  *2022 National Jewish Book Award: American Jewish Studies Finalist*
I Could Nosh by Jake Cohen (9/2023)

Living a Jewish Life by Anita Diamant (revised & updated 9/2023)

We Need to Talk About Antisemitism by Diana Fersko (8/2023)

101 Classic Jewish Jokes by Robert Menchin & Joe Kohl (10/2023)

The Jewish Deli: An Illustrated Guide to the Chosen Food by Ben Nadler (7/2023)

Shabbat: Recipes and Rituals from My Table to Yours by Adeena Sussman (9/2023)
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