

**Humor and Purim Books for Adults (No Adult Books!)**  
**at THE BETH SHOLOM LIBRARY**  
**March 2009**

**PURIM:**

Goodman, Philip. *The Purim Anthology*. (JPS, 1973; ISBN: 0-8276-0022-4). "The anthology not only relates how the first Purim originated, but also gives the stories of many other special Purims observed in various parts of the world. It presents the laws and customs, and offers an extensive collection of stories and poems."

Horowitz, Elliot. *Reckless Rites: Purim and the Legacy of Jewish Violence*. (Princeton University Press, 2006; ISBN: 978-0-691-12491-9). A look at both the history of Jewish violence since late antiquity and the ways in which generations of historians have grappled with that history.

Isaacs, Ronald H. *Every Person's Guide to Purim*. (Every Person's Guide to Series)(Jason Aronson, 2000; ISBN: 0-7657-6046-0). Sections include Purim in History, The Book of Esther, Purim in Jewish Law and Custom, Purim Questions and Answers, Purim Oddities and Curiosities, Purim Songs, and Purim Games that introduce the reader to the many facets of the festival.

**Information in Holiday Books:**

Aaron, Rabbi David. *Inviting God In: Celebrating the Soul-Meaning of the Jewish Holidays*. (Trumpeter, 2006; ISBN: 978-1-59030-337-5). Pages 170-183.

Cardin, Rabbi Nina Beth. *The Tapestry of Jewish Time: A Spiritual Guide to Holidays and Life-Cycle Events*. Illustrated by Ilene Winn-Lederer. (Behrman House, 2000; ISBN: 0-87441-645-0). Pages 118-127.

Domnitch, Larry. *The Jewish Holidays: A Journey Through History*. (Jason Aronson, 2000; ISBN: 0-7657-6109-2). Pages 193-221.

Fellner, Judith B. *In the Jewish Tradition: A Year of Food and Festivities*. (Jonathan David Publishers, 1995; ISBN: 0-8246-0385-0). Pages 68-81.

Greenberg, Rabbi Irving. *The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays*. (Simon and Schuster, 1988; ISBN: 0-671-87303-2). Pages 224-257.

Kitov, Eliyahu. *The Book of Our Heritage*. (Feldheim, 1978; ISBN: 0-87306-153-5). Volume II, pages 51-98.

Klagsbrun, Francine. *Jewish Days: A Book of Jewish Life and Culture Around the Year*. Illustrated by Mark Podwal. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1996; ISBN: 0-374-17923-9).

Knobel, Peter S., editor. *Gates of the Seasons: A Guide to the Jewish Year*. (Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1983; ISBN: 0-916694-92-5). Pages 94-97.

Miron, Issachar. *Eighteen Gates* (Jason Aronson, 1993; ISBN: 0-87668-563-7). Pages 106-115.

Sarna, Jonathan D. *A Time to Every Purpose: Letters to a Young Jew*. (Basic Books, 2008; ISBN: 978-0-465-00246-7). Pages 155-164.

Steinberg, Paul. *Celebrating the Jewish Year: The Winter Holidays*. (JPS, 2007; ISBN: 978-0-8276-0842-9). Pages 121-178.

Strassfeld, Michael. *The Jewish Holidays: A Guide and Commentary*. (Harper & Row, 1985; ISBN: 0-06-015406-3). Pages 186-198.

Syme, Daniel B. *The Jewish Home: A Guide for Jewish Living*. (Jason Aronson, 1988; ISBN: 0-87668-825-3). Pages 23-27

Waskow, Arthur. *Season of Our Joy: A Celebration of Modern Jewish Renewal*. (Beacon Press, 1982; ISBN: 0-8070-3611-0). Pages 114-131.

Wolkstein, Diane. *Treasures of the Heart: Holiday Stories that Reveal the Soul of Judaism*. (Schocken Books, 2003; ISBN: 0-8052-4144-2). Pages 290-308.

## **DVDS:**

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (2006) - Hollywood send-up. No-name actors are making a low-budget period drama called "Home for Purim," when an anonymous post on the Internet suggests that one performance is Oscar-worthy. Then, two more cast members get Oscar-related press: buzz in "Variety" and appearances on TV prompt the studio executives to insist on changes in the script in anticipation of a blockbuster. Jump ahead a few months to the days before Oscar nominees are announced: just the possibility of a nomination has changed the actors' lives. Agents, publicists, make-up artists, local celebrity reporters, and other bit players round out the backstage ensemble.

ONE NIGHT WITH THE KING (2006) - chronicles the life of the young Jewish girl, Hadassah, who goes on to become the Biblical Esther, the Queen of Persia, and saves the Jewish nation from annihilation at the hands of its arch enemy while winning the heart of the fiercely handsome King Xerxes. This film makes a clear connection between King Saul, who did not kill all the Amalekites, and his descendant Mordechai, who must face them in his time.

(Reviews courtesy of [IMDb.com](http://IMDb.com))

## HUMOR:

Dubinsky, Jeffrey and Lila. ***Goldie's Lox and the Three Bagels.*** Illustrations by Dick Siegel (Citadel Press, 2007; ISBN: 978-0-8065-2861-8). This Jewish spin on classic tales includes "Shlepping Beauty," "The Three Little Chazzers," and "Pushkin Boots." Not for children.

Katz, Molly. ***Jewish as a Second Language.*** Illustrated by Jeff Moores. (Workman Publishing, 1991; ISBN: 0-89480-885-0). : "An indispensable guide to the complex twists, unexpected nuances and hidden meanings of Jewish language and culture."

Klug, Lisa Alcalay. ***Cool Jew: The Ultimate Guide for Every Member of the Tribe.*** (Andrews McNeel Publishing, 2008; ISBN: 978-0740771132). Cool Jew covers everything Hebraic from womb to tomb, finally putting an end to Christmas tree envy. Short essays, lists, instructional guides, photographs, and original illustrations celebrate Jewish cultural pride with love, enthusiasm, and irreverence. Entries ranging from "Heebonics for the Yiddish Impaired" to "Self-Help for the Christmas Carole Intolerant" provide the long-awaited Jewish response to that WASP manual of the '80s, The Preppy Handbook.

Menchin, Robert. ***101 Classic Jewish Jokes.*** (Mustang Publishing, 1997; ISBN: 978-0914457886). From the Borscht Belt shtick of Rodney Dangerfield to the urbane wit of Jerry Seinfeld, Jewish humor has had an enormous influence on modern comedy. Jokes about doctors, jokes about food, and of course, jokes about mothers, classic jokes are in this book, along with several witty essays and numerous charming cartoons by Joe Kohl.

Minkoff, David. ***Oy! The Ultimate Book of Jewish Jokes.*** (Thomas Dunne Books, 2005; ISBN: 978-0-312-36176-1). There are more than a thousand Jewish jokes and witty anecdotes in this book in such categories as Family Events, Daily Life, Travel and Technology, and Final Years. The end materials

include Jewish Jokes to tell Children, A Kosher Humor Test for Dating Couples, and the Best Punch Lines.

Novak, William, and Waldoks, Moshe, editors. ***The Big Book of Jewish Humor***. (Harper & Row, 1981; ISBN: 0-06-090917-X). A collection of jokes, stories, cartoons, and quotes from a variety of sources and authors that captures the full range of Jewish humor.

Rosten, Leo. ***Hooray for Yiddish: A Book About English***. (Simon and Schuster, 1982; ISBN: 0-671-43025-4). Rosten's dictionary combines his inimitable sense of humor with the true expertise of a philologist. It is garnished with stories, jokes, parables, epigrams, acerbities and Talmudic insights, and takes illuminating side trips into the faith, folklore, tradition, genius, history, and language of the Jewish people.

Spalding, Henry D., editor. ***Encyclopedia of Jewish Humor: From Biblical Times to the Modern Age***. (Jonathan David Publishers, 1969; ISBN: 0-8246-0060-6). In 39 chapters, Mr. Spalding "marches the colorful characters of Jewish folklore through 40 centuries—in a manner that illuminates the highlights of Jewish history and portrays the vicissitudes of Jewish life in most of the countries where Jews have lived." Chapters include "Shnorrers," "Rabbis, Preachers and Cantors," "Show Biz," and "Jewish Parents."

Telushkin, Rabbi Joseph. ***Jewish Humor: What the Best Jewish Jokes Say About the Jews***. (William Morrow, 1992; ISBN: 0-688-11027-4). "An erudite, opinionated, and hilarious examination of comedy as the mirror of culture, woven around more than a hundred of the best Jewish jokes."

Weiner, Ellis and Davidman, Barbara. ***Yiddish with George and Laura***. Illustrations by Larry Ruppert. (Little, Brown and Company, 2006; ISBN: 978-0-316-01446-5). Learn Yiddish as the former president takes his wife and daughters to Maine. Not for children.