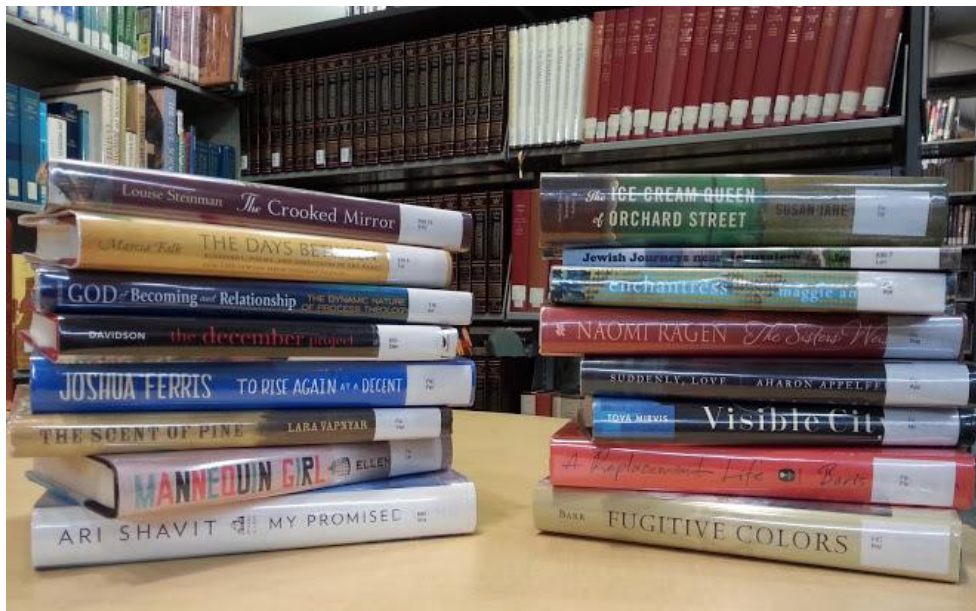
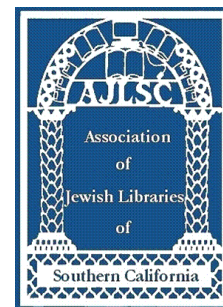


# IN CELEBRATION OF JEWISH BOOK MONTH

## A Selected List of Recent Books and DVDs For Adults For 2015



A Publication of the  
Association of Jewish Libraries  
of Southern California



## FICTION BOOKS

Akhtiorskaya, Yelena. **Panic in a Suitcase**. 2014. A debut author succeeds with a deft immigrant tale exploring those who leave, those who stay and those who attempt return.

Anton, Maggie. **Enchantress**. 2014. Rav Hisda's daughter, a practitioner of mysterious arts, and her husband brave an evil sorceress, the demon king, and the Angel of Death in their quest to safeguard their people, despite the risk to their relationship.

Appelfeld, Aharon. **Suddenly Love**. 2014. An old Ukrainian army veteran and his young caretaker, daughter of Holocaust survivors, transform each other's lives in Israel.

Barr, Lisa. **Fugitive Colors**. 2013. Julian Klein, a young American artist, rebels against his religious upbringing and flees to the artistic freedom of 1930s Paris, only to find himself consumed by a world in which a paintbrush is far more lethal than a gun.

Bonert, Kenneth. **The Lion Seeker**. 2013. Jewish immigrants flee to South Africa where they claw their way out of poverty between the wars in Johannesburg in a powerful tale.

Dahl, Julia. **Invisible City**. 2014. A riveting debut novel stars Rebekah, a young reporter covering the murder of a Hasidic woman from Rebekah's mother's cloistered world.

De Waal, Elisabeth. **The Exiles Return**. 2014. Austria, which embraced Nazism, is still under Allied occupation when three exiles return to love and betrayal in Vienna in 1954.

Eve, Nomi. **Henna House**. 2014. The Kingdom of Yemen is rarely portrayed in fiction. This involving novel traces the adventures of Adela in Yemen from the 1920s to 1950s.

Ferris, Joshua. **To Rise Again at a Decent Hour**. 2014. A man with a troubled past notices his stolen identity is used to create social media accounts. He begins to wonder if his virtual alter ego is actually a better version of himself.

Fishman, Boris. **A Replacement Life**. 2014. An aspiring 20-something Russian Jewish writer struggles to reconcile his immigrant roots with his fragile new American identity.

Fletcher, Martin. **Jacob's Oath**. 2013. At the conclusion of the Holocaust, a survivor must decide whether to fulfill an oath he has made to kill the Concentration Camp guard who killed his brother or to forget the past and look to the future.

Gilman, Susan Jane. **The Ice Cream Queen of Orchard Street**. 2014. Sensitivity and wit deliver the rags to riches saga of a Jewish immigrant who makes her fortune in the ice cream business after being crippled by an ice cream cart in an accident as a child.

Greenstein, Louis. **Mr. Boardwalk**. 2014. A soul searching, touching novel traces a man's idyllic childhood in Atlantic City and his need to share his secrets with his family.

Grossman, David. **Falling Out of Time**. 2014. Searching for his dead son, a man walks in ever-widening circles, picking up similarly bereaved companions. They explore the potential for overcoming death and reconnecting with lost loved ones.

Hoffman, Alice. **The Museum of Extraordinary Things**. 2014. Intrigue about a missing Triangle Factory girl ignites an impassioned affair between the daughter of Coney Island's sinister impresario of their curiosities and an Orthodox immigrant photographer.

Kellerman, Faye. **The Beast**. 2013. Peter Decker and Rina Lazarus solve a new case in Los Angeles involving sex, murder, and an adult tiger.

Lewis, Jeffrey. **The Inquisitor's Diary**. 2013. The novel in diary form takes place during the 17<sup>th</sup> century Mexican Inquisition's investigation of a Catholic priest and a Converso.

Litman, Ellen. **Mannequin Girl**. 2014. The daughter of young Jewish intellectuals in Russia tries to meet her parents' expectations despite her severe progressive scoliosis.

Mack, Karen, and Jennifer Kaufman. **Freud's Mistress**. 2013. This novel imagines a possible affair between Sigmund Freud and his sister-in-law, Minna, educated, but disinterested in conventional women's roles and fascinated by his pioneering theories.

Mirvis, Tova. **Visible City**. 2014. While spying on her neighbors with her son's toy binoculars, Nina becomes entranced with the subjects of her secret vigils until she encounters them in the real world and must decide whether to let them into her life or not.

Mones, Nicole. **Night in Shanghai**. 2014. An epic novel about jazz, war, the Holocaust and China's Jewish Resettlement Plan stars Thomas Greene, African-American classical pianist, recruited to Shanghai to lead a black jazz orchestra. He has a forbidden romance with the mistress of Shanghai's most powerful crime boss and anti-Communist spy.

Platzová, Magdaléna. **Aaron's Leap**. 2014. Artistic characters meet then connect over the span of a century as they struggle to seek truth through art, love and friendship.

Ragen, Naomi. **The Sisters Weiss**. 2013. Two ultra-Orthodox sisters part when one rebels; years later their children uncover shocking truths about the family.

Silva, Daniel. **The Heist**. 2014. Sometimes the best way to find a stolen masterpiece is to steal another. Gabriel Allon, art restorer and spy, returns in another murderous art hunt.

Solomons, Natasha. **The Gallery of Vanished Husbands**. 2013. A quirky, delightful novel, formatted as an art gallery catalog, reveals the career and family of an agunah.

Sparks, Nicholas. **The Longest Ride**. 2013. Bestselling romance author delivers a moving story about two couples whose lives intersect in profound and surprising ways.

Storace, Patricia. **The Book of Heaven**. 2014. An Eve who does not recognize her own biblical story tells her version of the Garden of Eden before revealing alternate feminist stories of four women, including Sarah, Job's wife, and the queen of Sheba.

Vapnyar, Lara. **The Scent of Pine**. 2014. Frustrated professor Lena unexpectedly reveals her memories of a life-changing summer when she and her friend were counselors at a summer camp in rural Russia during perestroika in a novel with an unforgettable twist.

Waldman, Ayelet. **Love and Treasure**. 2014. In 1945 victorious American soldiers capture a train bursting with Holocaust riches. New Yorker Jack Wiseman, in charge of guarding this treasure, does something to a survivor that returns to haunt him and his granddaughter 70 years later.

Yehoshua, A.B. **The Retrospective**. 2013. Unsettled during a retrospective of his early work, an aging film director attempts to reconcile with his difficult, brilliant, estranged screenwriter. The price demanded has strange and lasting consequences.

## NON-FICTION BOOKS

Ament, Rachel, ed. **The Jewish Daughter Diaries.** 2014. Enjoy this new collection of humorous essays by daughters writing about their mothers.

Artson, Bradley Shavit. **God of Becoming and Relationship.** 2013. The author considers 'process thought' in Jewish theology. He explains this systematic approach integrating religion and science in a way that respects the integrity of both disciplines.

Aslan, Reza. **Zealot.** 2013. A fascinating, provocative, comprehensive biography of Jesus challenges long held assumptions about the historical man.

Bennett, Roger, ed. **Unscrolled.** 2013. A new collection of Torah commentaries, one on each portion of the Torah, arrives from a modern, non-traditional perspective.

Cohen, Mark. **Overweight Sensation the Life and Comedy of Allan Sherman.** 2013. This bittersweet biography of legendary Jewish comedian Allan Sherman, best known for the song *Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!* covers his groundbreaking career.

Collins, John J. **The Dead Sea Scrolls.** 2013. A modern examination of the fascinating history surrounding the Dead Sea Scrolls reveals controversies, claims and conspiracies.

Falk, Marcia. **The Days Between.** 2014. A contemporary American Jewish poet offers an elegant volume of new English and Hebrew prayers for the High Holy Days.

Gallagher, Dorothy. **Lillian Hellman.** 2014. This taut biography explores the glamorous, talented, famous Jewish American dramatist who inspired outrage as well as admiration.

Goldberg, Edwin C. **Saying No and Letting Go.** 2013. This frank how-to recognizes our overload from failure to say "no". It suggests how to regain control of what matters most.

Gordis, Daniel. **Menachem Begin.** 2014. The biography reveals the controversial, complex former Prime Minister of Israel, the first Israeli to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Halevi, Yossi Klein. **Like Dreamers.** 2013. This blockbuster National Jewish Book Award winner interweaves the stories of 1967 paratroopers who reunited Jerusalem, the history of Israel, and the divergent ideologies shaping the nation from the Six-Day War to the present.

Harris, Maurice D. **Leviticus: You Have No Idea.** 2013. The rabbi author offers readers surprising new ways of looking at the Bible's least popular and least understood book through the lens of his progressive religious values.

Lau, Binyamin. **The Sages: Character, Context & Creativity.** 2013. Discover personal and historical nuggets about Rabbis during Roman rule and their reaction to innovative changes to ancient practices.

Levinson, Jay. **Jewish Journeys Near Jerusalem.** 2013. Traveling? Try this new guidebook to tours which bursts with things to do in and around Jerusalem.

Pogrebin, Letty Cottin. **How to Be a Friend to a Friend Who's Sick.** 2013. Inspired by her own experiences, the well-known author offers new insights and advice on how to relate to and help sick friends.

Rochlin, Harriet & Fred. **Pioneer Jews.** 2014. This hot off the press second edition of a landmark social history of Jews in the West offers new information and new features.

Shavit, Ari. **My Promised Land**. 2013. A dynamite examination of Israel's past uses stories of everyday citizens to illuminate the importance of lesser-known historical events that led the country to its current state of conflict.

Sherman, Charles S. **The Broken and the Whole**. 2014. A wise, uplifting memoir about a rabbi's search for understanding and his discovery of hope after his young son suffers a catastrophic brain-stem stroke leaving him a quadriplegic dependent on a ventilator.

Shteyngart, Gary. **Little Failure**. 2014. The Russian-born author who immigrated to the United States with his parents at a very young age discloses all in his autobiography.

Steinman, Louise. **The Crooked Mirror**. 2013. This history of the Polish town where the author's family lived focuses on Jewish and Christian life before the Holocaust.

Wisse, Ruth R. **No Joke**. 2013. A respected author traces the history of modern Jewish humor, evoking and applauding its genius spontaneity.

Wolpe, David. **David**. 2014. The well-known Los Angeles rabbi and popular author examines King David's contradictory nature and his exalted place in history and legend.

Yeroushalmi, David, ed. **Light and Shadows**. 2013. Contributors analyze the 2700 year history of Jews in Iran, revealing a fascinating culture despite oppression.

### DVD'S

Pressman, Steven, Alan Alda, and Mamie Gummer. **50 Children**. 2013. In early 1939, Philadelphia couple Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus embark on a risky and improbable mission to rescue 50 Jewish children from Nazi Germany to bring them to safety in the U.S.

Shaffer, Marc. **American Jerusalem**. 2013. The documentary describes how the Jewish community in San Francisco developed and thrived.

Zusak, Markus, and Brian Percival. **The Book Thief**. 2014. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

Amir, Assaf. **Fill the Void**. 2013. In a realistic, romantic story, a young Hasidic woman is pressured into an arranged levirate marriage by her extended family. Hebrew with English subtitles.

Moreh, Dror. **The Gatekeepers**. 2013. Six former heads of Israel's Shin Bet, discuss their nation's secret service in a gripping documentary.

Greenberg, Peter. **Israel**. 2014. Benjamin Netanyahu and Peter Greenberg explore Israel through the eyes of its current Prime Minister in a well done PBS documentary.

Minac, Matej, and Patrik Pass. **Nicky's Family**. 2013. The film documents the story of Nicholas Winton, who organized the rescue of 669 children just before World War II.

Davidson, Martin. **The Story of the Jews**. 2014. The acclaimed new PBS documentary about the history of the Jewish people is narrated by famed historian Simon Schama.

## ONLINE LIBRARY CATALOGS

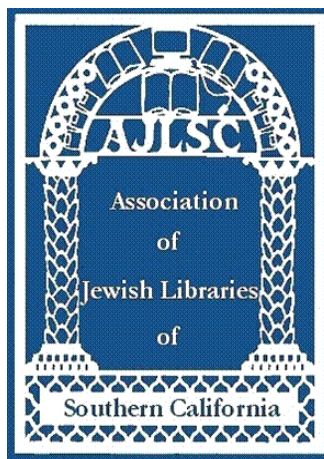
Ostrow Library at the American Jewish University  
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[vbs.org/library](http://vbs.org/library)

Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives  
[wiesenthal.com/library](http://wiesenthal.com/library)

Hebrew Union College Frances Henry Library  
[huc.edu/research/libraries/los-angeles](http://huc.edu/research/libraries/los-angeles)



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