

RECOMMENDED READS:
THE LATEST & GREATEST IN JEWISH FICTION FOR ADULTS

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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 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 with the members of the new AJL Fiction Award Committee and come prepared to share some of your favorite new titles.

Rachel Kamin has worked as a synagogue librarian for over nineteen 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 is a member of AJL's new Jewish Fiction Award committee. She contributes articles and book reviews to *BookLinks*, *School Library Journal*, *Jewish Book World*, *Judaica Librarianship*, *Library Journal* and *AJL Reviews*. She has facilitated Beth El's Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club and also facilitates groups at four other local synagogues. 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.

Rosalind Reisner is a librarian and the author of *Jewish American Literature: A Guide to Reading Interests* (winner of the 2004 Judaica Reference Award from AJL) and *Read On...Life Stories: Reading Lists for Every Taste*, a readers' guide to the memoir genre. She has worked in public, academic, and synagogue libraries; for Baker & Taylor; and was the program coordinator for the Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative. From 2009-2014 she chaired the reading committee for the Great Group Reads list of National Reading Group Month titles. For the past six years she has given a webinar on recent and forthcoming literary fiction for librarians in New Jersey. She is currently a member of AJL's new Jewish Fiction Award committee. 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.

Judy Weidman is the Temple Librarian at Hyman Judah Schachtel Library at Congregation Beth Israel in Houston, TX. She oversees the Adult and Juvenile Judaica collections and leads the Beth Israel Readers' Group. 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 at the Houston Public Library and school and medical libraries. She also had a second career as a sales representative for El Al Israel Airlines. Judy hosted the 2013 Houston AJL Conference, worked on the AJL Accreditation committee, and is a member of AJL's new Jewish Fiction Award committee.