

NEW BOOKS RECOMMENDED FOR SUMMER READING

NON-FICTION

Maimonides: The Life and World of One of Civilization's Greatest Minds by Joel L. Kraemer. *The definitive biography of medieval Judaism's chief intellectual sage offers a splendid analysis of his major works: Commentary on the Mishnah; Mishneh Torah and Guide to the Perplexed.*

Shut Up, I'm Talking: And Other Diplomacy Lessons I Learned in the Israeli Government--A Memoir by Gregory Levey. *The author describes his experiences working as a speechwriter for the Israeli government, discussing what he witnessed while attending U.N. sessions, Middle Eastern politics, and other related topics.*

Yehuda Amichai: The Making of Israel's National Poet by Nili Scharf Gold. *An innovative study of the widely read and much translated Israeli writer.*

My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq by Ariel Sabar. *The author tells of his search for his Jewish past and his family's survival in Islamic lands.*

Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean: How a Generation of Swashbuckling Jews Carved Out an Empire in the New World in Their Quest for Treasure, Religious Freedom--and Revenge by Edward Kritzler. *Discusses how the religious oppression suffered by Jewish people during the Inquisition led some individuals to become pirates on the open seas.*

From Krakow to Krypton: Jews and Comic Books by Arie Kaplan. *The history of the contributions of Jews to the comic book industry, featuring interviews with Will Eisner, Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Neil Gaiman, Art Spiegelman and others.*

FICTION

Ask for a Convertible by Danit Brown. *A collection of linked stories that follow the efforts of Osmat Greenberg, the daughter of an American father and Israeli mother, over the course of fifteen years as she tries to find her place in the world.*

Tales of the Ten Lost Tribes by Tamar Yellin. *Ten connected contemporary stories, each one named for one of the lost tribes of Israel, about displaced persons looking for a sense of purpose and belonging.*

The World a Moment Later by Amir Gutfreund. *Journalist Leon Abramowitz immigrates to Palestine in the 1920s for a job but is abandoned by his employer, leaving him on his own to survive with his two sons.*

Sarah's Key by Tatiana deRosnay. *While researching the brutal 1942 Nazi roundup in Paris, American journalist Julia Jarmond stumbles upon a connection between her family and one of the victims, compelling her to learn more about the girl's life.*

A Mad Desire to Dance by Elie Wiesel. *Doriel Waldman, a European Jew living in New York City, seeks out a psychoanalyst to help him deal with the ghosts of his past and the secrets of his parents, resistance fighters and survivors of World War II who died in an accident after the war.*

All Other Nights by Dara Horn. *A Civil War spy page-turner meets an exploration of race and religion in 19th-century America.*

Wandering Stars by Sholem Aleichem. *In this romantic epic, previously available only in an abridgment, two lovers are enraptured when a Yiddish theatre troupe arrives in their impoverished shtetl and they escape to New York Lower East Side with the actors.*

JUVENILE NON-FICTION

Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman by Marc Tyler Nobleman. *Relates the story of Cleveland teenagers Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster's creation of Superman.*

As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom by Richard Michelson and Raul Colon. *Describes the experiences that influenced their civil rights activism and discusses the friendship they shared.*

Meet Our New Student From Israel by Laya Saul. *Stephanie, her classmates and her teacher prepare to welcome Ziv, a new student from Israel, by learning about his country and its culture. Includes a craft project and a traditional recipe.*

May-ah Teach You 100 Hebrew Words: A Fun Hebrew Word Book by Elana, Carly and Shani Fox. *Our own congregants created this engaging and unique guide to Hebrew vocabulary.*

Alef-Bet Yoga for Kids by Ruth Goldeen. *Presents full-color photographs of young children performing traditional and modified yoga poses that resemble the letters of the Hebrew alphabet.*

My First Yiddish Word Book edited by Joni Sussman. *An illustrated introduction to basic Yiddish vocabulary that features Yiddish to English translations and includes a pronunciation guide.*

Toby Belfer Learns About Heroes and Martyrs by Gloria Teles Pushker. *Toby's visit to Yad Vashem teaches her about the lives of 26 Righteous Gentiles who helped to save Jews during the Holocaust.*

PICTURE BOOKS

Raise a Rabbit, Grow a Goose by Yaffa Ganz. *Mimmy and Simmy learn to care for animals of their own.*

Nachshon, Who Was Afraid to Swim by Deborah Bodin Cohen. *When the Israelites flee Egypt, Nachshon exhibits great courage by being the first to step into the Red Sea, even though he cannot swim.*

Guttersnipe by Jane Cutler. *In early 20th century Canada, Ben decides to help his Jewish immigrant family who are struggling to make ends meet. When a hat maker gives him a chance, disaster strikes and Ben nearly loses hope.*

Sammy Spider's First Day of School by Sylvia Rouss. **Sammy** Spider sneaks into Josh's lunch box and accompanies him to **school**, where he learns about the important Jewish value of being kind to animals.

CHAPTER BOOKS

Nothing by Robin Friedman. *Despite his outward image of a popular, attractive high-achiever bound for an Ivy League college, high school senior Parker sees himself as a fat, unattractive*

failure and finds relief for his overwhelming anxieties in ever-increasing bouts of bingeing and purging. [TEEN]

T4 by Ann LeZotte. *A 13 year-old deaf German girl fears for her life when she learns that the Nazis have been ordered to kill disabled people, Jewish or not.*

The Diary of Laura's Twin by Kathy Kacer. *Laura, a young girl preparing for her Bat Mitzvah, is given the diary of Sara Gittler, who was imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. As Laura researches Sara's life in order to honor her at the ceremony, she discovers secrets that will ultimately change her life.*

Elvina's Mirror by Sylvia Weil. *In 1097 Troyes, France, 14 year-old Elvina reaches out to a shunned family of German Jews, eventually drawing her grandfather into helping her new friend's cousin Ephraim, whose memories of the Crusaders' cruelty have driven him mad.*