

THE AMERICAN JEWISH STORY in PRINT

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The 350th anniversary of Jewish life in America celebrates a proud legacy of Jewish literature which explains, in the written word, the voyage here. The Jews arrived from the four corners of the earth, built remarkable lives, contributed to the greater American society on all levels and yet retained a unique identity. This is the story played out in a plethora of categories. The listing confines selections, in general, to books printed since 2000. Many of the “classics” have been reprinted or remain in print and are readily available. Limited annotations are offered where the title is not descriptive. Winners of the National Jewish Book Award are identified with *. Books of academic nature and intent are indicated with (A). Books no longer in print, but readily available through used bookstores and online services are noted with OP. Books appropriate for young adults (ages 13-16) are marked YA.

Fiction

Short Stories and Anthologies

For the Relief of Unbearable Urges. Nathan Englander. Vintage, 2002.

One of the very best selections of short stories digging deep into the American Jewish experience by an astounding young Jewish author whose voice will contribute even more to our literature.

Goodbye Evil Eye. Gloria DeVidas Kirschheimer. Holmes & Meier, 2000.

These short stories offer a glance into the American Sephardi community.

History on a Personal Note. Binnie Kirshenbaum. HarperCollins, 2004.

This book is made up of sixteen short stories about unusual relationships among primarily Jewish protagonists in America.

Lost Tribe: Jewish Fiction from the Edge. Paul Zakrzewski. HarperCollins, 2003.

This selection is at the cutting edge of American Jewish fiction and includes stories by our current group of young American Jewish writers including Jonathan Safran Foer, Dara Horn, Nathan Englander, Myla Goldberg and 21 more.

Murder is No Mitzvah: Short Mysteries About Jewish Occasions. Abigail Browning, ed. St. Martins, 2004.

This 12 story collection uses American based Jewish tradition as a backdrop to a mystery.

The New Country: Stories from the Yiddish about Life in America. Henry Goodman, ed. & trans. Syracuse Univ. Pr., 2001

42 stories written by some of the best known Jewish writers of the twentieth century including Sholom Aleichem and Abraham Raisin, paint a sometimes hilarious, sometimes somber picture of the experiences of the “greenhorns” coming to America, the impact the country had on their lives and in turn the tremendous impact they had on America.

San Remo Drive: A Novel From Memory. Leslie Epstein. Handsel Books, 2003.

Well written stories set mainly in Los Angeles, 1948-2001, about growing up in Hollywood and in more recent years, finding ones Jewish identity.

Schocken Book of Contemporary Fiction. Ted Solaratoff and Nessa Rapoport, eds. Schocken, 1996.

This anthology brings together stories by the leading American Jewish authors in the latter half of the twentieth century including works by Bellow, Chabon, Paley, and Roth.

There Are Jews in My House. Lara Vapnyar. Schocken Books, 2003.

Short stories about the Russian Jewish immigrants experiences in America of the late 20th century and their impact upon the greater Jewish population.

Novels

Adventures of Kavalier and Clay. Michael Chabon. Random House, 2000.

An Almost Perfect Moment. Binnie Kirschenbaum. Harper-Collins, 2004.

The Bee Season. Myla Goldberg. Doubleday, 2000.

An interesting approach to the life of a dysfunctional Jewish family in Brooklyn.

Dirty Sally. Michael Simon. Viking, 2004.

Dan Reles a member of Austin's suicide unit, the department's only Yankee and only Jew, unravels a mystery in this Southern town.

Great Neck. Jay Cantor. Knopf, 2003.

The story, set on Long Island, includes the Jewish participation in and influence on the Civil Rights movement and anti-war movement of the mid twentieth century.

The Human Stain. Phillip Roth. Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

Inspecting Jews: American Jewish Detective Stories. Laurence Roth. Rutgers Univ. Pr, 2004

Jane Austen in Boca. Paula Marantz Cohen. St. Martin's Press, 2003.

A satirical and touching novel about a Jewish retirement community in Boca Raton, FL, whose residents experienced and helped shape the average American Jewish experience at the end of the twentieth century.

Jewish American Poetry: Poems, Commentary and Reflections. Barron & Selinger, eds. Brandeis Univ. Pr, 2000.

Joy in the Morning. Jonathan Rosen. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004.

Kaatarskil Falls. Allegra Goodman. Knopf, 1999.

The Orthodox community in a summer colony in New York State and the pulls within their world and from the outside world of greater America.

Little Edens. Maron Waxman. Norton, 2004.

Man Walks Into A Room. Nicole Krauss. Anchor, 2001.

Memory. What if Holocaust survivors had no memory? Read this book and keep that in mind as you travel with a man in America who suffers from memory loss.

Misfits in America. Lawrence R. Velvel. Univ. Pr. Of America, 2004.

This selection provides insights into growing up and reaching maturity as a Midwestern Jew in the mid to late 20th century America .

Much Ado About Jessie Kaplan. Paula Marantz Cohen. St. Martin's Press, 2004.

The American Jewish middle class in fiction.

Old School. Tobias Wolff. Knopf, 2003.

A self-conscious Jewish youth is the protagonist in this poignant exploration of innocence lost in the wake of disappointment.

The Outside World. Tova Mirvis. Knopf, 2004.

Two Orthodox families, one in Brooklyn, one in New Jersey brought together by their children's marriage and resettlement in the South. A perfect description of the pull between the religious and the secular in America.

Ravelstein. Saul Bellow. Viking, 2000.

This book was inspired by Bellow's friendship with Allan Bloom in which he presents a Jew as the quintessential intellectual and accepted in the literary world as a Jewish intellectual.

**The Russian Debutante's Handbook.* Gary Shteyngart. Riverhead Book, 2003.

An award winning novel that steps into the Russian immigrant experience in America where they hunger for education and financial advance.

Three Daughters. Letty Cottin Pogrebin. FS&G, 2002.

Tough Jews: Fathers, Sons and Gangster Dreams. Rich Cohen. Vintage.

CLASSIC FICTION

In addition to those listed below, books by Grace Paley, Phillip Roth, Saul Bellow, Cynthia Ozick, and Bernard Malamud are a must on any reading list.

Bread Givers. Anzia Yeziarska. Persea Books, reissued 2003.

A classic of American immigrant literature set on the Lower East Side in the 1920s, this tells the story of Sara, the youngest daughter of an Orthodox rabbi, who rebels against her father's rigid conception of Jewish womanhood. Originally published in 1925.

Call It Sleep. Henry Roth. FS&G 1997.

Originally published in 1934, this brings the reader a brilliant portrayal as well as protest against ghetto brutality and ignorance.

The Chosen. Chaim Potok. Random House, 1996.

This is the odyssey from boyhood to manhood for two Jewish boys in Brooklyn amidst the conflict between generations and religious traditions.

Jews Without Money: A Novel. Michael Gold. Carroll and Graf. Pb reissue 2004.

First published in 1930, this fictionalized autobiography by a Jewish journalist and political activist, is an unusually candid look at the thieves, gangsters and ordinary citizens who struggled against brutal odds on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

The Rise of David Levinsky. Abraham Cahan. Modern Library, 1999

Originally published in 1917, this defines the American Jewish immigrant experience at the turn of the 20th century.

Non-Fiction

America, Its Jews and the Rise of Nazism. G.N. Arad. Indiana Univ. Pr., 2001.

The author contextualizes the American Jewish encounter with Nazism within the overall history of the American Jewish experience from the mid-twentieth century and offers explanations of the ambivalent political response of Jewish leaders in dealing with the Roosevelt administration.

American Jewish Filmmakers. David Desser and Lester Friedman. Univ. of IL Pr., 2003.

In this second edition the authors demonstrate how the Jewish experience gives rise to an intimately linked series of issues in the films of Jewish directors including Woody Allen, Mel Brooks, Sidney Lumet and Paul Mazursky.

Americanization of Zionism, 1897-1948. Naomi W. Cohen. HarperCollins, 2003.

American Judaism. Jonathan Sarna. Yale Univ. Pr., 2004.

A definitive view of 350 years of history for all readers, both authoritative and immensely readable, this book highlights the changing faces of Judaism in its most successful diaspora community and how Judaism impacted upon the larger society around it. Highly recommended.

The Chosen People in an Almost Chosen Nation: Jews and Judaism in America. R.J. Neahauss, ed. Eerdmans, 2002.

This book examines the way in which American Jews are at once “a people apart” and exemplars of the American success story.

Contemporary Jewish American Writers and the Multicultural Dilemma: Return of the Exiled. Andrew Furman. Syracuse Univ. Pr., 2000.

Furman uses each chapter to explore a different facet of Jewish American themes as well as different writers in their relation to the larger question posed in the title. Writers include Roth, Bellow and younger authors, Bukiet, Goldstein, Goodman and more.

And the Dead Shall Rise: The Murder of Mary Phagan and the Lynching of Leo Frank. Steve Oney. Pantheon Books, 2003.

The author offers a definitive and riveting account of the famous case which highlighted anti-Semitism in the South in the last century.

Diaspora and Zionism in Jewish-American Literature: Lazarus, Syrkin, Reznikoff and Roth. Ranen Omer-Sherman. Univ. Pr. Of N.E., 2002.

The long arm of Zionism reaches into and impacts upon the lives of Jews in the diaspora. This book tells us how negotiations with Zionism brings about the self-fashioning of a culture.

The Dynamics of American Jewish History: Jacob Rader Marcus's Essays on American Jewry. Gary Zola, ed. Brandeis Univ Pr. 2004. (A)

An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood. Neal Gabler. Anchor
Entertaining America: Jews, Movies and Broadcasting. J. Hoberman and Jeffrey Shandler. Princeton Univ. Pr., 2004.

The First Jewish American Cookbook. Esther Levy. Dover Publ., 2004.

**Forged in Freedom: Shaping the American Jewish Experience*. Norman H. Finkelstein. Jewish Publication Society, 2002.

An award winning book that traces the journey of Jewish immigrants in America from the tenements of the LES to the cities and towns across the nation and their impact upon each community. YA

From the Lower East Side to Hollywood: Jews in American Popular Culture. Paul Buhle. Verso, 2004.

Through interviews, anecdotes and little-known facts, Buhle offers an eye-opening history of Jewish popular culture that is comprehensive and entertaining.

Funny, It Doesn't Sound Jewish: How Yiddish Songs and Synagogue Melodies Influenced Tin Pan Alley, Broadway and Hollywood. Jack Gottlieb. State Univ. of New York Pr., 2004.

The author chronicles how Jewish melodies were transformed by Jewish immigrants into the music of American pop.

Gangsters and Gold Diggers: Old New York, the Jazz Age and the Birth of Broadway. Jerome Cheryn. Four Walls, Eight Windows, 2003.

The heady atmosphere of the early years of Broadway, built by societal outsiders like the underworld financier Arnold Rothstein, and impresario Florenz Ziegfeld, reflect the impact of Jews on this area of American culture.

Going Greek: Jewish College Fraternities in the United States, 1895-1945. Marianne Rachel Sanua. Wayne State Univ. Pr. 2003. (A)

The American dream was pursued by children of immigrants and to a much lesser extent young immigrants themselves through the halls of the university with the unique assistance of the Jewish fraternity system that emerged on campus and heightened assimilation into the mainstream.

The Golden Land: The Story of Jewish Immigration to America: An Interactive History with Removable Documents and Artifacts. Joseph Telushkin. Harmony, 2002.

This museum-in-a-book is devoted to each of the successive waves of Jewish immigration to America from the Germans and Eastern Europeans in the 19th century to the Soviet Jews in the latter part of the 20th century.

Good Americans: Italian and Jewish Immigrants During the First World War. Christopher M. Sterba. Oxford Univ. Pr., 2003.

An extremely interesting approach to the immigrant support of the war effort.

Gravity Fails: The Comic Jewish Shaping of Modern America. James D. Bloom. Praeger Publ., 2003. (A)

The story of how Jewish comic writers and performers relishing their position as outsiders attempted to untie the cord of pretensions and complacency around middle-America.

Handbook of American Jewish Literature: An Analytical Guide to Topics, Themes and Sources. Lewis Fried, et. al, eds. Greenwood Publ. Gp., 1988.

A collection of 18 scholarly and critical essays that range from Zionist ideology in America to American-Jewish theology. (A)

The Haunted Smile: The Story of Jewish Comedians in America. Lawrence J. Epstein. Public Affairs, 2001.

The author recounts the jokes, routines and anecdotes that captivated audiences and made the rhythms of Jewish comedy into an American idiom.

**Heeding the Call: Jewish Voices in America's Civil Rights Struggle.* Norman H. Finkelstein. Jewish Publication Society. 2001. YA

Henry Ford and the Jews: The Mass Production of Hate. Neil Baldwin. Public Affairs, 2001.

A book about the man who didn't know a Jew until his mid-life but became one of the most obsessive anti-Semites of our time.

History of the Jews in America. Howard M. Sachar. Vintage, reprint 1993.

A sweeping narrative of American Jewry from 1654 to the 1980s showing how Jews faced the challenge of preserving their historical group identity within the widening matrix of Americanization.

"How Goodly Are Thy Tents": Summer Camps As Jewish Socializing Experiences. Amy L. Sales and Leonard Saxe. Brandeis Univ. Pr. 2004. (A)

Unique among our institutions is the Jewish summer camp which combined the country air with Jewish friends and culture and has been uniquely successful on the American scene.

Image of the Jew in American Literature: From Early Republic to Mass Immigration, 2nd ed. Louis Harap, et.al, eds. Reprinted by Syracuse Univ. Pr., 2003.

This is a comprehensive study of literary representations of Jews in American literature before the 20th century. Originally printed 1974.

In Search of American Jewish Culture. Stephen Whitfield. Univ. Pr. Of N.E., 2001.

Whitfield believes that with renewed emphasis on Judaism itself, American Jews can maintain their dual cultural identities they have so far been able to nurture in America.

Inspecting Jews: American Jewish Detective Stories. Laurence Roth. Rutgers Univ. Pr., 2004.

The author argues that the detective story examines the need for order in a disorderly society and thus offers a window into the negotiation of Jewish identity. He analyzes stories about American Jewish detectives including those created by Harry Kemelman, Faye Kellerman, Rochelle Krich and more.

Irreconcilable Differences: The Waning of American Love Affair with Israel. Steven T. Rosenthal. Brandeis Univ. Pr, 2001.

Rosenthal studies American Jews and their changing responses to Israel and its effect on the hegemony within the community.

**Jazz Age Jews.* Michael Alexander. Princeton Univ. Pr., 2001.

The award winning book addresses the origins and consequences of exceptional Jewish liberalism based on Jewish “outsider identification” in America in the 1920s.

Jewish in America. Jonathan E. Friedman. Univ. of MI Pr., 2004.

Jewish Life and American Culture. Sylvia Barack Fishman. SUNY Pr., 2000.

The author introduces the concept of coalescence, in which Jews merge American and Jewish elements and lose, to a degree, their dissonance and perception as a unified Jewish whole.

Jewish Polity and America Civil Society: Communal Agencies and Religious Movements in the American Public Square. Jonathan Sarna and Robert Licht, eds. Rowman and Littlefield, 2002.

Ten essays examine the organizational history of Jewish religious and advocacy associations and discuss the role of state and local Jewish providers of welfare services and their respective institutional characteristics.

**Jew vs Jew.* Samuel Freedman. Simon & Schuster, 2000.

An award winning book by a superb journalist focuses on issues within specific Jewish communities that find commonality throughout the country.

The Jew Within. Steven M. Cohen and Arnold E. Eisen. Indiana Univ. Pr., 2004.

Written by two of the leading sociologists in the field, this provides a glimpse of American Judaism in the not-too-distant future and reminds us that our American Jewish community continues to reinvent and reinterpret itself.

Jews in American Politics: Essays. S. Maisel and I. Forman., eds. Rowman & Littlefield, 2003pb.

Journalists, scholars and politicians present a picture of Jewish political participation in America over the years.

The Jews in Early America: A Chronicle of Good Taste and Good Deeds. Sandra Cummings Malamed. Fithian Press, 2003.

This selection tells the story of how Jews lived from 1654 through the Civil War, how they earned a living, formed a community based on shared faith and common values and how they contributed to the greater American society.

The Jews of Prime Time. David Zurawik. Brandeis Univ. Pr. 2003

The author suggests Jewish television pioneers, William Paley of CBS, David Sarnoff of NBC and Leonard Goldenson of ABC, took an active role in suppressing Jewish themes from the small screen.

The Jews of the United States. Hasia Diner. Univ. of California Pr., 2004.

Diner portrays the 350 year history as a constant process of negotiation, undertaken by ordinary Jews who wanted to be both Jews and full Americans.

Judaism in America. Marc Lee Raphael. Columbia Univ. Pr, 2003.

A broad overview of the 350 year experience which focuses on the emergence and development of the four branches of Judaism and addresses the controversies between them.

Key Texts in American Jewish Culture. Jack Kugelmass, ed. Rutgers Univ. Pr., 2003.

Kugelmass explores Jewish identity in America as seen through the lens of literature, film, theatre, television, fine arts and religion.

Live and Be Well: A Celebration of Yiddish Culture in America. Richard F. Shephard and Vicki Gold Levi. Rutgers Univ. Pr., 2000.

This selection documents the rich traditions of Yiddish-speaking immigrants and their children in America from the earliest arrivals to World War II and highlights the successful combination of freedom in America with their “Yiddishkeit.”

Magic Worlds of Bernard Malamud. Evelyn Avery, ed. SUNY Pr. 2001.

This is a unified collection of essays on Malamud’s career and persona.

Making Americans: Jews and the Broadway Musical Theatre. Andrea Most. Harvard Univ. Pr., 2004.

Focusing on American musicals, 1925-1951, this book shows how first and second- generation American Jewish writers, composers, and performers saw the stage as the ideal America and used the theatre to fashion their own identities as Americans and as Jews.

**Modern Jewish Canon: A Journey Through Language and Literature.* Ruth R. Wisse. Free Press, 2000.

Wisse analyzes novels that convey an experience of Jewish actuality, and she also links selected titles to their time and place in history from the shtetl to America to Israel.

The New Joys of Yiddish. Leo C. Roston. Revised by L. Bush. Crown, revised 2002.

The New Rabbi: A Congregation Searches for its Leader. Stephen Fried. Bantam, 2002.

Fried explores the life of a rabbi and the private world of American Jewish synagogue leaders by following a nationally known Philadelphia-based congregation as it searches to replace its beloved rabbi of 30 years.

A Perfect Fit: Clothes, Character and the Promise of America. Jenna Weissman Joselit. Henry Holt, 2002.

The author focuses on a time when getting dressed was more about “fitting in” than standing out and the unifying role of one’s dress in American society.

Philip Roth: Countertexts, Counterlives. Debra B. Shostak. Univ. of SC Pr., 2004

Something Ain’t Kosher: The Rise of the “Jewish” Sitcom. Vincent Brook. Rutgers Univ. Pr. 2003.

An analysis of Jewish situation comedies on television which enjoyed its heyday between 1989-2002.

Torn at the Roots: The Crisis of Jewish Liberalism in Postwar America. Staub. Columbia Univ. Pr., 2004.

This book explodes the myth of a monolithic, liberal, Jewish viewpoint and relates the fierce battles raged in postwar America over what is an authentically Jewish position on desegregation, Zionism, Vietnam, gender relations and other topics of interest to the American Jewish community.

Triangle: The Fire That Changed America. David Von Drehle. Atlantic Monthly Press, 2003. While not specifically of Jewish content, the book invokes the sights and sounds and flavor of the teeming immigrant venue on the Lower East Side where many of 146 women who died in the fire were Jewish.

**Unfinished People: Eastern European Jews Encounter America.* Ruth Gay. WW Norton, 2001pb

An evocative portrait of growing up in an immigrant family provides a useful counterpoint to much of the ambivalent American Jewish literature of the 50s and 60s that has shaped our communal self image.

Vanishing American Jew: In Search of Jewish Identity for the Next Century. Alan Dershowitz. Touchstone Books, 1998.

The author believes American Jews are in danger of disappearing and suggests what should be done to create a renewed sense of Jewish identity.

Wonders of America: Reinventing Jewish Culture, 1880-1950. Henry Holt, 1995, reprinted 2002. Drawing on advertisements, and etiquette manuals, sermons and surveys, the author, a social historian, presents an illustrated account of how American Jews created their distinctive culture.

Autobiographies, Biographies and Memoirs

Alfred Kazin's America. Ted Solartaroff, ed. HarperCollins, 2003.

An American Orthodox Dreamer: Joseph Soloveitchik. Brandeis Univ. Pr., 2004.

Bellow. James Atlas. Random House Gp, 2002.

Atlas gives a definitive account of the Nobel Prize-winning author's turbulent personal and professional life, as it unfolded against the background of twentieth-century events—the Depression, World War II, the upheavals of the sixties—and amid all the complexities of the Jewish-immigrant experience in America, which generated a vibrant new literature.

Bummy Davis vs. Murder, Inc.: The Rise and Fall of the Jewish Mafia and an Ill-Fated Prizefighter. Ron Ross. St. Martins, 2004.

The anecdotal history of a Jewish boxer who defied organized crime and the Jewish mob that had a stronghold on the sport. Ross portrays an important historical time period, an enigmatic Jewish subculture, and the surprising juxtaposition of a generation of Jews and their talent for boxing.

Displaced Persons: Growing Up American After the Holocaust. Joseph Berger. Washington Square Press, 2002

Berger, a distinguished reporter at *The New York Times*, recounts his warm experiences as the child of Holocaust survivors but also his self-consciousness because of his parents "foreignness" in America.

**Irving Howe: A Life of Dispassionate Dissent*. Gerald Sorin. New York University Press, 2002.

In this book, Sorin recounts the life of Howe, a New York intellectual and one of America's outspoken leftists in mid-century, who helped shape our moral vision.

**A Jew in America*. Arthur Hertzberg. HarperCollins, 2003.

A memoir and overview of the life of an intellectual and activist in the last half of the 20th century.

Jewish Heroes and Heroines of America: 151 True Stories of Jewish American Heroism. Kensington Publ. Gp, 2004.

Kazin: A Lifetime Burning in Every Moment, Alfred Kazin, HarperCollins, 1996.

This book guides readers with beguiling deftness through Kazin's life growing up in New York, traveling in Europe during and after World War II, and facing the challenges of modern American politics and art.

100 Greatest Jews in Sports: Ranked According to Achievement. B.P. Silverman. Scarecrow Press, 2003.

The title should include the word American as it quantifies the achievement of American Jewish sports stars in spite of the anti-Semitism found in the sporting world which made Jews feel like outsiders.

Living A Year of Kaddish: A Memoir. Ari Goldman. Schocken, 2003.

For a year after his father died, the author followed the traditional custom of *kaddish* and adapted the rules of the ritual to his lifestyle in America.

Outwitting History: How One Man Rescued Rescued a Million Books and Saved a Vanishing Civilization. Aaron Lansky. Algonquin Publ., 2004.

How one man, a MacArthur Fellow recipient, has made a difference in this world! Aaron describes his quest, his passion, to save Yiddish literature and through grass roots beginnings went on to establish the National Yiddish Book Center and impact upon Yiddish literature in America..

Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy. Jane Leavy. 2003pb.

Shiksa Goddess: Or, How I Spent My Forties. Wendy Wasserstein. Vintage, 2001.

The Warburgs: The Saga of a Jewish Family. Ron Chernow. Vintage.

Classic Non Fiction and Memoirs

The Promised City: New York's Jews, 1870-1914. Moses Rischin. Harvard Univ. Pr.

The Promised Land. Penguin, 1997. First issued 1912.

An autobiography which poignantly shows the role reversal of the American bred child and the immigrant parent. "Did I not become the parent and they the children in those relations of teacher and parent."

Red Ribbon on a White Horse. Anzia Yeziarska. Publ. 1950. Reissue by Persea Books, 2004.

An autobiography by an outstanding female author and astute observer of the world around her, whose life spanned the Polish ghetto, the Lower East Side and finally success in Hollywood.

The Rest of Us: The Rise of America's Eastern European Jews. Stephen Birmingham. Syracuse Univ. Pr., 1999pb

This, the last addition to Stephen Birmingham's historical trilogy, recounts the immigration of Eastern European Jews to America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Birmingham spotlights the successes of several of these famous immigrants, including Samuel Goldwyn, Benny (Bugsy) Siegel, Helena Rubinstein, and Irving Berlin. The first two books are *Grandeas: The Story of America's Sephardic Elite* (1997) and *Our Crowd: The Great Jewish Families of New York* (1996).

The World of Our Fathers: The Journey of the Eastern European Jews to America and the Life They Found and Made Here. Irving Howe. Galahad Pr., 1994.

Originally published in 1976, this is a social history in which the inheritors, the children, while valuing the immigrant experience, see it from a distance. It is a record of our collective past.

Women

American Jewish Women's History: A Reader. Pamela S. Nadell, ed. New York Univ. Pr., 2003
In 18 articles by distinguished contributors, the book captures the scholarship on the uniqueness of the Jewish woman's adventure in America and the diverse areas of impact.

Beyond the Synagogue Gallery: Finding a Place for Women in American Judaism. Karla Goldman. Harvard Univ. Pr. 2000.

Deborah, Golda and Me: Being Female and Jewish in America. Letty Cottin Pogrebin. Anchor, 2000.

A leading Jewish feminist activist in the U.S. writes of her struggle to integrate a feminist head with a Jewish heart.

Her Works Praise Her: A History of Jewish Women in America from Colonial Times to the Present. Hasia Diner. Basic Books, 2002.

This is a social history of how women forged new ways of being Jewish and a woman in America.

Jewish Women of Brownsville Brooklyn 1940-1995. Carole Bell Ford. Univ. of NY Pr 1999.

Joining the Sisterhood: Young Jewish Women Write Their Lives. Tony Belzer and Judy Pelc, eds. SUNY Pr., 2003

24 women ranging from 16-33 in age write about their religious and Jewish cultural life nurtured in modern American

The Journey Home: How Jewish Women Shaped Modern America. Joyce Antler. Schocken, 1998.

Women and American Judaism: Historical Perspectives. Jonathan D. Sarna and Patricia S. Nadell, eds. Brandeis Univ. Pr, 2001.

Twelve essays show how American Jewish women from colonial to contemporary times expressed their commitment to Judaism and fashioned places for their gender within the home, synagogue and larger community.

Jewish Communities and Rituals in America

American Reform Judaism: An Introduction. Dana Evan Kaplan. Rutgers Univ. Pr., 2003.
This book analyzes the forces challenging the Reform Movement, now the most populous denomination in American Judaism and suggests its reasons for its popularity.

The Fourth Commandment: Francine Klagsbrun. Harmony, 2002.
The observance of Shabbat in America has been dictated by our tradition but the influence of the greater American society has shaped it to contemporary times while keeping the sacredness of our ancestors. Written by a leading commentator of contemporary Jewish style.

Lubavitchers as Citizens: A Paradox of Liberal Democracy. Jan Feldman. Cornell Univ. Pr. 2003.
An academic book in which the author suggests that Lubavitch communal sense of duty creates good citizens.

Memories of a Giant: Eulogies in Memory of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik. M. Bierman and J.J. Schacter, eds. Urim, 2003

Mystics, Mavericks, and Merrymakers: An intimate Journey Among Hasidic Girls. Stephanie Wellen Levine. New York Univ. Pr., 2003.
The author lived in the Chassidic community, and focused on young women ages 13-32, and discovers a unique, charming and endearing community living within and without the American mainstream.

Orthodoxy Awakens: The Belkin Era and Yeshiva University. Victor B. Geller. Urim, 2003.
The story of the emergence of Torah Judaism in the U.S., 1940-1975. And how Jewish religious life succeeded in a modern pluralistic and democratic society.

Postville: A Clash of Cultures in Heartland America. Stephen H. Bloom. Harcourt.

The Rebbe's Army: Inside the World of Chabad Lubavitch. Sue Fishkoff. Schocken, 2003.

The Self Renewing Congregation. Isa Aron. Jewish Lights, 2002.
The synagogue remains the institution by which Jewish community is measured. It is in need of revitalization and this book suggests paths.

Reference

American Jewish Literature. Rosalind Reisner. Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

American Jewish Yearbook published by American Jewish Committee.
Published annually since 1900, this record offers a chronicle of developments in areas of concern to Jews in Israel and the Diasporas around the world.

Jewish American Literature: The Cambridge Companion. Michael P. Kramer and Hana Wirth-Neshev, eds. Cambridge Univ. Pr., 2003.

The essays in this anthology focus on writings from 1700 to the present with contemporary favorites, such as Roth and Bellow and cover a plethora of categories including sections on popular culture and by women writers.

Jewish American Literature: A Norton Anthology. Chametzky, et. al, eds. W.W. Norton, 2001.

In 1200 pages there are excerpts from the works of 129 Jewish American authors, playwrights and lyricists representing “American literature that is Jewish” divided into four historical periods beginning with 1654.

Jewish Book Annual. Published by Jewish Book Council.

Published annually since 1945.

The Jewish 1960's: An American Sourcebook. Michael E. Straub. Univ. of New England Pr., 2004.

The Jewish People in America. Johns Hopkins Univ. Pr. Reprinted 1995.

Vol. I: *A Time for Planting: The First Migration 1654-1820*.

Vol. II: *A Time for Gathering: The Second Migration 1820-1880*.

Vol. III: *A Time for Building. The Third Migration 1880-1920*.

Vol. IV: *A Time for Searching: Entering the Mainstream 1920-1945*

Vol. V: *A Time for Healing: American Jewry Since World War II*.

**Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*. Paula Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore, eds. Routledge, 1997.

The Arts

American Synagogues. A Century of Architecture and Jewish Community. Samuel Gruber. Rizzoli, 2003.

Fixing the World: Jewish American Painters in the Twentieth Century. Ori Z. Soltes. Brandeis Univ. Press, 2003.

80 Jewish artists in America have brought their approach to *tikkun olam*, repairing the world into their artistic expression which is deftly described in this selection.

Isaac Bashevis Singer and the Lower East Side. Photos by Bruce Davidson. Intro by Isaac Bashevis Singer and Ilan Stavans. Univ. of WI Pr., 2004.

Photos taken between 1957-1990 of Singer's Lower East Side with accompanying narrative by the Nobel Prize winner.

Jewish New York: Notable Neighborhoods and Memorable Moments. Ira Wolfman. Rizzoli, 2003.

L'Chaim! To Jewish Life in America! Celebrating from 1654 to Today. text by Susan Goldman Rubin. Jewish Museum, 2004.

Lavishly illustrated with first person narratives covering the kaleidoscope of Jewish life in America.

Fiction & Nonfiction by Geographic Region

Fiction selections are identified by (F).

Northeast and East Coast

Death of An American Jewish Community. Hillel Levine. Touchstone Books, 2003.

This chronicles the demise of a vibrant Jewish community near Boston which once numbered 90,000 Jews in 1960 and was reduced to 2,500 thirty years later because of external forces.

In the Catskills: A Century of Jewish Experience in the Mountains. Phil Brown. Columbia Univ. Pr., 2002.

The Catskills experience, covered almost a century and it continues to impact on American music, comedy, food, culture and religion.

Getting Comfortable in New York: The American Jewish Home, 1880-1950. Jenna Weissman Joselitt, ed. Indiana Univ. Pr., 1991 OP

The shape of the contemporary American Jewish home traces its roots back to the 70 years (largely based in New York) covered in this very readable account.

Jewish Women of Brownsville Brooklyn, 1940-1995. Carole Bell Ford. Univ. of NY Pr., 1999.

Jews of Brooklyn. Ilana Abramovitch & Sean Galvin. Brandeis Univ. Pr., 2001.

The cultural heritage and roots of one third of the Jewish population in America today can be traced to Brooklyn.

The Jew of New York: A Historical Romance. Ben Katchor. Pantheon,

Lower East Side Memories: A Jewish Place in America. Hasia Diner. Princeton Univ. Pr, 2000.

The Lower East Side (LES) of Manhattan, 1880-1930, has come to define what it is to be Jewish in America. The author discovered that this reference only solidified after World War II when the Jewish population migrated to the suburbs and became assimilated and the LES came to represent a time and place where one was able to be completely Jewish.

The Lower East Side Remembered and Revisited. Joyce Mendelsohn. The Lower East Side Press, 2003.

New Jersey Dreaming: Capital, Culture and the Class of '58. Sherry B. Ortner. Duke Univ. Pr., 2003 (A)

Ever wonder what accounts for the extraordinary success of so many American Jews? The author contends it is the result of the “immigrant dream” and a period when America was enjoying social, political and economic expansion.

New York Jews and the Decline of Urban Ethnicity, 1950-1970. Eli Lederhendler. Syracuse Univ. Pr., 2001.

The author’s thesis suggests that NYC has been the premier Jewish urban center and that Jewish views have dramatically shaped the city’s behavior as at one time Jews represented one-third of the population.

Remnant of Israel: A Portrait of America's First Jewish Congregation, Shearith Israel. Marc Angel. Riverside Books, 2004.

A coffee table book that follows the growth of America's oldest Jewish congregation from 1654 through today as told by the current leader of the synagogue.

Still Pitching. Michael Steinberg. Michigan State Univ. Pr., 2003

This is a coming-of-age memoir about growing up Jewish in NY in the 50s. It is a story about community and friends-both Jewish and non-Jewish, and the drive to overcome the "outsider" stigma.

The Tenement Saga: The Lower East Side and Early Jewish American Writers. Sanford Sternlicht. Univ. of WI Pr., 2005.

The author tells of his own childhood on the LES and puts it within the context of fourteen early 20th century East Side writers who defined this new "Jewish homeland" and paved the way for future Jewish American writers.

South

Chicken Dreaming Corn. Roy Hoffman. Univ. of GA Pr., 2004.

This novel animates the cultural conflict endured by Jews in the Deep South focusing on a would-be entrepreneur in a uphill battle.

The Ladies Auxiliary. Tova Mirvis. Ballantine, 2001. (F)

The Levy Family and Monticello.1834-1923: Saving Thomas Jefferson's House. Melvin I Urofsky.Univ. of NC Pr., 2002.

The story of the Levys and Monticello is a story of the blending of cultures and personalities, of Yankees and Virginians, of Jews and Christians, of city folk and rural people. It is the story of the power of a symbol, and how in America such symbols cut across lines of religion and class and ethnicity.

*Mordecai: An Early American Family.*Emily Bingham. Hill & Wang, 2003.

A social historian traces the lives of three generations of this Southern Jewish family from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War in Virginia and South Carolina.

The Outside World. Tova Mirvis. Knopf, 2004. (F)

A book which takes the reader from New York's ultra-Orthodox community to New Jersey and finally to Memphis in a glorious story of the tug between the religious and the secular in America.

The Peddler's Grandson: Growing Up Jewish In Mississippi. Edward Cohen. Dell, 2002pb.

A memoir about growing up Jewish in the South, overcoming societal limitations, and the acceptance that comes with embracing that which sets us apart.

Saving Monticello: The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built. Marc Leepson. Free Press, 2001.

Shalom Y'All: Images of Jewish Life in the American South. Bill Aron. Algonquin Books, 2002.
A vibrant portrait by famed photographer, Bill Aron, with 137 photos of contemporary Jewish life, from Levy, AK to Kaplan, LA, portraying the funny and sometimes tragic experiences of people below the Mason-Dixon line.

Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life. Rosengarten & Rosengarten, eds. Univ. of SC Pr., 2002.

The focus is South Carolina and its proud history of Jewish life spanning over 300 years. The book is a record of the exhibition of objects that reflect the people and circumstances that produced them.

West and Midwest

California Jews. Ava F. Kahn and Mark Dollinger, eds. Brandeis Univ. Pr., 2003.

A reference book to educate readers of the interesting California Jewish experience often overshadowed by the New York Jewish history.

Dancing at Ciro's: A Family's Love. Loss and Scandal on Sunset Strip. Sheila Weller. St. Martin's Press, 2004.

More than a memoir about life in California in the 40s and 50s, this tells of a particularly American Jewish California experience.

Family of Strangers: Building a Jewish Community in Washington State. Molly Cone, et. al. Univ. of Wash. Pr., 2003.

Initially the small groups of Jewish immigrants in Washington State had little in common but over the course of time they developed a community whose members are leading citizens of this northwestern state.

Fanny Herself. Edna Ferber. Wildside Press, reissued in pb 2004.

Originally published in 1917, this reissue is the semi-autobiographical story of a Jewish girl growing up in Iowa before World War I and the impact of anti-Semitism on her life.

A Good Enough Daughter. Alix Kates Shulman. Schocken, 2000.

This memoir portrays the shifting values and relationships of one Midwestern Jewish family over the course of seven decades.

Jewish Life in the American West. Ava Kahn, ed. Univ. of WA Pr., 2002.

This book explores the roots of American Jewish culture and reveals the contrast between the American image of Jews as Eastern urbanites and the reality of the diversity in American Jewish life.

Jewish Voices of the California Gold Rush. Ava F. Kahn, ed. Wayne State Univ. Pr 2002.

This is a collection of first-hand accounts of Jewish life during the Gold Rush.

Looking Backward: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past. Walter Roth. Academy Chicago Publishers, 2002.

This book chronicles the people and events that shaped Jewish life in Chicago from the late nineteenth century to the end of WWII and explores Jewish participation in the arts, industry, culture and education.

My Suburban Shtetl: A Novel About Life in the Twentieth-Century Jewish-American Village. Robert Rand. Syracuse Univ. Pr., 2001.

The author captures the rhythm of life in the 60s and 70s in Skokie, IL, which had a large Jewish population including many Holocaust survivors.

Peace in the House: Tales from A Yiddish Kitchen. Faye Moskowitz. Godine, 2002.

This is the world of the second generation. Set in the kitchen of a small mid-western town in Michigan this book explores the world of the young Jewish girl growing up in a family still clinging to old world traditions.

Pioneers, Peddlers and Tsadikkim: The Story of the Jews in Colorado. Ida Uchill. Univ. of CO Pr., 2000.

The book covers more than 140 years of Jewish life in Colorado.

Rachel Calof's Story: Jewish Homesteader on the Northern Plains. Rachel Calof. Indiana U Pr., 1995.

