



JBI • LIBRARY

Dear Friend,

Happy April showers time. Here in New York City, it's been cool, warm, muggy and then an allergy storm. But it's sunny and the daffodils are coming out so I'm happy about it. We have several programs coming up that I would love to see you at – there's so much to talk about and learn about this season. In our list of newly added books, you'll find plenty of memoirs to get you in the mood for our memoir programs this summer, as well as epic poems, children's stories, and murder mysteries. Also, a reminder that we have revamped our JBI Voices and Braille Review offerings, so please subscribe if you are interested in getting a bimonthly digest of news articles on science, culture, history, Jewish lives, humor, personal stories and more.

As always, reach out to our librarians with any questions or requests at 212-545-8025 or library@jbilibrary.org!

Best wishes and have a very happy Passover!

Jill Rothstein

News:

I am thrilled to share that the JBI Library Board of Directors has appointed Michelle Shapiro Abraham as JBI Library Executive Director, effective April 21, 2025. Michelle brings over 20 years of

experience in Jewish communal leadership and is deeply passionate about JBI Library's mission. We also want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to Livia Thompson, who has led JBI Library with dedication and care these past three years. Livia's impact has been profound, and while we will miss her, we are excited for her as she embarks on her well-deserved retirement after an incredible 40-year career in the Jewish nonprofit world. Please refer to the April 9th email for more information.

Programs:

Stitched & Sewn: A Holocaust Remembrance Day Program Thursday, April 24 at 4:30pm EST Virtual (Zoom), Free

Join us virtually for a deeply moving Yom HaShoah program on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 4:30 pm ET as we explore the powerful story of resilience and remembrance found within Jody Savin's "Stitched and Sewn." Using traditional Yemeni embroidery, Holocaust survivor Trudie Strobel created powerful tapestries from her memories featured in this book. This special event will feature a discussion centered on Trudie Strobel's extraordinary life, as chronicled in the book, and the poignant artwork that accompanies her narrative.

We will delve into Trudie's experiences, her strength, and the enduring legacy she leaves behind. This is an opportunity to honor the memory of the Holocaust through the lens of one woman's remarkable journey, and to reflect on the importance of preserving these stories for future generations. "Stitched and Sewn" is now also available in our collection in audio format. Please reach out to our librarians if you'd like to request it and

visit the New Releases section of the newsletter below to read more about it.

Register for free at the following link: <https://jbilibrary-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/03RlpNpvRuWCCDiD7IfZog>

If you have any access needs, require ASL interpretation, or have any other questions, please reach out to us at register@jbilibrary.org or 646-616-3929.

**JB I Voices/Review Chat Hour
Thursday, May 1 at 4:30 PM EST
Virtual (Zoom), Free**

Did you read the latest JBI Voices magazine? Grab a tea and join us on Zoom to discuss the theme of the issue (communities helping each other), share your reactions to the other articles we chose (What did you think of all the new AI applications? The Jewish Basketball star educating about dyslexia? The history of Jews in Turkmenistan? The long-lost book that was found? The terrible (wonderful) jokes I included?) and help choose new themes. If you are not currently receiving JBI Voices magazine yet, call or email us to subscribe.

Please reach out to register@jbilibrary.org or 646-616-3929 to register.

**Book Club with Eve
Tuesday, May 6 at 4pm EST
Book: "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks
Virtual (Zoom), Free**

On Tuesday, May 6, join us for a book discussion about "People of

the Book” by Geraldine Brooks, facilitated by Professor Eve Keller. This ambitious, electrifying work traces the harrowing journey of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, a beautifully illuminated Hebrew manuscript created in fifteenth-century Spain. When it falls to Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, to conserve this priceless work, the series of tiny artifacts she discovers in its ancient binding only begin to unlock its deep mysteries and unexpectedly plunge Hanna into the intrigues of fine art forgers and ultranationalist fanatics.

This book is available from NLS as BR17613 for braille and DB66059 for audio. Download them through BARD at nlsbard.loc.gov, or the BARD Mobile app, or request them from your local NLS library.

Please reach out to register@jbilibrary.org or 646-616-3929 to register.

Memoir Series Part One: Memoir Writing Workshop
May 12th, 4:30-5:30 PM
Virtual (Zoom), FREE

Join us on Monday, May 12th, for a day of creativity, introspection, and community gathering. Writer Julia Edelman will take you through guided meditation and journaling prompts to help you reflect and explore. Express memories and moments and see where your writing leads you. Surprise yourself with what will be unearthed. Participants will have the opportunity to share what they've written with other members of the group.

You don't need to be a writer or professional artist for this workshop, and you don't need to prepare anything beforehand! Just come with curiosity and a desire to create. This is a chance

to meet others looking for a way to ground, connect and share work. If you would like to audio record your responses rather than write them, that is also possible. The workshop is intended to be as accessible as possible. Please let us know of any helpful modifications beforehand.

Register for free at the following link: <https://jbilibrary-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/R2A22e0RQ2KqvH780DFR-A>

If you have any access needs, require ASL interpretation, or have any other questions, please reach out to us at register@jbilibrary.org or 646-616-3929.

Newly Added Titles

Stitched and Sewn: The Life-Saving Art of Holocaust Survivor Trudie Strobel by Judy Savin, EN408834. A child survivor of the Holocaust, Trudie Strobel settled in California, raising a family and never discussing the horrors she witnessed. This is the dramatic story of how a needle and thread saved Trudie Strobel's life twice.

Love and Dread by Rachel Hadas, EN408824. Hadas seems to speak to the world of closeness and anxiety. Many poems in this volume unfold in bedrooms or at the doorway to bridal chambers, the bed the stage for birth, love, and death, and for the dream-world of napping and waking in between.

It Wasn't Easy to Reach You by Daniel Meltz, EN408827. These intelligent, clever, beyond-the-surface poems by Meltz will make you blush, laugh and nod your head in agreement. Meltz is a poet of urban wonderings and urbane wit.

Articles of Faith by Robert L. Rodin, EN407250. Twenty-five years after his father's apparent suicide, a phone call shatters Danny Maguire's calm steady life. It is his father on the other end. Sean Maguire's reappearance in his son's life threatens to destroy it. For Sean brings a history that many in power would be eager to suppress. What has long been suspected is now coming to light—that the Nazis were not the only ones who profited from their war effort, that the circle of violence reached far beyond the territories invaded by the German and that the suffering continues. Taking his cue from evidence of profiteering by supposedly neutral powers during the Holocaust, Rodin blends this story of greed and gold with his father's own deathbed tale of the battle he fought against the Nazis on American soil.

Reason For Wings by Joyce Reiser Kornblatt, EN407373. Rachel Silver, a Holocaust survivor now living in Argentina, undertakes "The Duties of Witness," setting down for her missing granddaughter Marcella a history of the family's survival, from pogroms to World War II to the "Dirty War" of the 1970s.

Memories of Laughter and Garlic, by Leo Lieberman, EN407386. Simply put, reading Lieberman is going back home to Bubbe, revisiting a world of long-lost Yiddishkeit when all was warm and cozy and the shtetl still alive even here in America. But you don't have to be Jewish to love memories of laughter and garlic. If you appreciate wit and wisdom sprinkled with Yiddishisms reminiscent of Sholom Aleichem, this book is for you.

Faith of Biology and the Biology of Faith, by Robert Pollack, EN407396. Award-winning biologist Robert Pollack argues that an alliance between religious faith and science is not necessarily

an argument in favor of irrationality; the two can inform each other's visions of the world.

Joseph and Me in the Days of the Holocaust by Judy

Hoffman, EN407397. Hoffman describes her experiences as a Jewish child living in hiding with a Dutch family in Amsterdam during World War II.

Introduction to Jewish History: Abraham to the Sages by Seymour Russel EN407398.

In simple story form, Rossel presents the highlights of Jewish history from the age of the patriarchs to the destruction of the second temple, the rebellion of Bar Kochba, and the completion of the Talmud.

Ex-Friends: Falling out with Allen Ginsberg, Lionel and Diana by Norman Podhoretz, EN407400.

Podhoretz tells the stories of friendships which were once central to his life and shows how the political and cultural struggles of the past fifty years made them impossible to sustain.

Holy Hatred: Religious Conflicts of the 90s by James A.

Haught, EN407406. Haught shows that many gruesome acts worldwide and throughout history have been committed "in the name of God." He stresses that religious-inspired atrocities did not end with the inquisition of the reformation. He reviews ongoing hot spots and maintains that the influence of Christian fundamentalism is increasing in U.S. politics.

Speak You Also: A Survivor's Reckoning by Paul Steinberg, EN407424.

An unprecedented self-examination by a concentration camp survivor who dares to confront the most heated and vexed question of the Holocaust: what is the cost of survival?

Death on Sacred Ground by Harriet K. Feder, EN407425.

A high school archery team's last hunt of the season turns deadly when a troubled teen vanishes. Searchers find her body on the Seneca Indian's ground. Someone shot an arrow through Mindy Solomon's heart. No one saw what happened, but Paula Ash is sure it was not an accident. Paula tries to solve the mystery, she vanishes, and it is up to Vivi Hartman to solve the mystery before it's too late.

Big Silence by Stuart M. Kaminsky, EN407433. The big silence takes Abe Lieberman, a cop, and his partner Bill Hanrahan – the Rabbi and the Priest as they are known on the streets – on a journey that will test their consciences to the limit.

Anna is Still Here by Ida Vos, EN407445. Anna, a Dutch-Jewish girl, has survived the war in hiding. She returns to school and is reunited with her parents, who cannot yet bring themselves to tell her about their own ordeal. She knows a little about the concentration camps, and she struggles to accommodate her knowledge, her sense of her parents' vulnerability, her own deeply inculcated terrors and eagerness to rejoin the world.

What to Do When You're Dating a Jew: Everything You Need to Know by Vikki Wiess and Jennifer A. Block, EN407451. Learn everything you need to know about the holidays, traditions, beliefs and culture of the Jewish person you love...and his or her family. From what to order at a kosher deli to what to wear to a Purim party, this book answers all the questions you'll face as the love interest of a nice Jewish boy or girl.

Shirot Bialik: New and Annotated Translation by Steven L. Jacobs, EN407460. A compilation of epic poems with a new translation and annotations.

Crown for the King by Solomon Ibn Gabirol, EN407465. In what is considered his greatest poem, Ibn Gabirol (1021-1058) uses as its theme the problem of human predicament. He talks of the frailty of man and his proclivity to sin, in tension with a benign providence that must leave room for the operation of man's free will and make available to him the means for penitence. The royal crown is still printed in prayerbooks of the Sephardic rite for Yom Kippur and among north-African Jewish communities (and their offshoots in Israel and elsewhere).

Arafat's Elephant by Jonathan Tell, EN407493. Seventeen stories which mainly take place in Jerusalem in the past, present and future. The characters in the stories are torn between tradition and modernity, idealism and pragmatism, and selfishness and loyalty.

Jerusalem Syndrome: My Life as a Reluctant Messiah by Marc Maron, EN407493. The Jerusalem syndrome is a psychological phenomenon that often strikes visitors to Israel: the delusion that they are suddenly direct messengers for the voice of G-d. Maron, a Jewish standup comic, found himself on his own quest for religious significance during a tour of the holy land where he reaches the brink of spiritual revelation—or is it a nervous breakdown?

Tanta Teva and the Magic Booth by Joel Lurie Grishaver, EN407497. The story of a boy named Marc Zeiger who runs away from home and encounters some weird stuff that no one would ever believe. He runs into a cleaning lady, Tanta Teva, who

takes him in her magic "sukkah" to meet Joshua, David and Hillel. But when Marc gets back, no one believes the stories he tells of the people he met and the things he saw!

Matzah Man: a Passover Story by Naomi Howland,

EN407498. In this Passover version of the "gingerbread man," a baker makes his last bit of matzah dough into a tiny figure that proceeds to run away. He encounters a variety of people and animals who enter the cumulative chase, and each time he escapes until a young Mendel Fox convinces him to hide under a matzah cover, where he is broken and eaten by his pursuers.

Cain and Abel: Finding the Fruits of Peace by Sandy

Eisenberg Sasso, EN407503. Multicultural and nondenominational, this children's book focuses on two brothers, so alike, yet so different. Jealousy, anger, and fear destroy their happiness and affect their world.

Grotto Berg by Charles Neider, EN407592. In these two novellas the author depicts two exotic, transformative voyages of escape and discovery. From the vast Southern Ocean surrounding the Antarctic to the streets of the crumbling Soviet Empire, these novellas are linked by Neider's concern for the human questions: memory, mortality, and the possibility of spiritual renewal.

Shanda: The Making and Breaking of a Self-Loathing Jew

by Neal Karlan, EN408084. The author describes the rejection and subsequent embrace of the Jewish faith, remembering his childhood as the son of Orthodox parents, the self-loathing that changed his spiritual perspective, and his participation in devotional studies.

The Wandering Jews: The Classic Portrait of a Vanished

People by Joseph Roth, EN408822. In these stunning dispatches written when Roth was a correspondent in Berlin during the period of Weimar Germany, he warned of the false comforts of Jewish assimilation, laid bare the schism between Eastern and Western Jews, and at times prophesied the horrors posed by Nazism.

Jewish and Special Needs: Exploring the Possibilities During Every Decade of Life for Creative Families and Congregations by Len Felder, EN408826. If you are a parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, rabbi, cantor, teacher, counselor, volunteer, or friend who cares about an individual who has special needs or a disability, this first-of-its-kind book can provide you with numerous innovative ways to improve things now and in the future.

The Punk Rock Queen of the Jews by Rossi, EN408829. Raised during and after the Holocaust, Rossi's parents tried to breed fear into their children of outsiders, of losing touch with the Jewish community, of a demanding G-d, but Rossi was fearless and hungry for experience. One day her parents dropped their rebellious lesbian daughter off among the Lubavitch Hasidim to 'keep her safe' in a dangerous drug-ridden area of New York City.

Emma Lazarus: Selected Poems by Emma Lazarus, EN408830. This new selection of Lazarus's work demonstrates that in her relatively brief life she achieved real poetic mastery in a variety of modes. Long neglected, her work is revealed in this volume as an important contribution to American poetry.

Mishkan Moeid: A Guide to the Jewish Seasons by Rabbi Peter S. Knoebel, EN408831. This survey of the sacred days of

the Jewish yearly cycle provides detailed guidance on observing Shabbat and the Jewish holidays, including historical background, essays, and extensive notes.

Never A Lovely Do Real: The Life and Work of Nelson Algren by Colin Asher, EN408832. This definitive biography reclaims Nelson Algren as a towering literary figure and finally unravels the enigma of his disappearance from American letters.

To Repair a Broken World: The Life of Henrietta Szold Founder of Hadassah by Dvora Hachohen, EN408833. The authoritative biography of Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah, introduces a new generation to a remarkable leader who fought for women's rights and the poor.

From Jesus to Judaism: One Man's Search for a Meaningful Faith by Shlomoh Sherman, EN408835. The author's search for what it means to be Jewish in the context of faith. It is the story of the author's personal odyssey from Judaism to Christianity and return to Judaism.

Tracker220: The Tracker Sequence Book 1 by Jamie Krakover, EN408836. When everyone has a brain-interfacing tracking chip, one glitch threatens the entire network. Kaya Weiss is that glitch. Through thoughts and blinks, Kaya can access anyone or anything on the tracker network. But the authorities monitor everything and without the ability to turn it off, Kaya and her family can't observe a tech-free Shabbat.

Phantom Limb by Janet Sternburg, EN437494. In this memoir, the author deals with the paradox of loss and presence through exploration of her mother's loss of a limb, and her last difficult years.

Get in touch!

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