



Dear Friend,

Welcome!

Hello from your library team!

This is Jill Rothstein, your head librarian, welcoming you to the February issue of our patron email newsletter. I will be using this newsletter every two months to keep you updated on library news, upcoming events and what new interesting books have been added to our library for you to read and listen to.

The Patron Newsletter will be coming out in email format only for now, though we are working to get an audio version available to listen to over our phone lines soon.

NEWS:

Free Accessible Megillot and Haggadot 2025!

As always, JBI Library offers a wealth of free, accessible Megillot and Haggadot in all formats for Purim and Passover. To order an accessible Megillah or any Purim-themed books, please contact our librarians at library@jbilibrary.org or 212-545-8025. Also, check out

one of our recent Purim addition "Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants" by Leah Rachel Berkowitz in our new releases section below, and stay tuned for more Purim book recommendations in our March newsletter.

If you or someone you know needs a large print, braille, or audio format Haggadah this year, please visit JBI's website at www.JBILibrary.org/haggadah or call JBI Library toll free at 1-800-999-6476 before March 28 and we will be happy to send you your Haggadah, completely free of charge. We have many different versions available—request yours today!

Coming soon: A new kind of JBI Voices!

JBILibrary.org/voices will continue to share news highlights and will also contain thoughtful and interesting thematic content that readers will be able to gather and talk about in Voices article interesting discussion groups. We will meet by Zoom for thoughtful chats and share our thoughts about last month's Voices themes and articles. JBI Voices will also feature some patron related content – poems, jokes, and short personal stories. Stay tuned to hear more.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

JBILibrary.org Poets Series Part Three: Love and Dread in an Unrestful Time

**Wednesday, March 19th at 4:30pm ET
Via Zoom**

Join JBI for a virtual poetry program, the last of JBI's three-part poetry series on personal and collective resilience. This program will feature poets Rachel Hadas and Matthew Lippman who will read their

work according to the evening's theme, including poems from Hadas' book *Love and Dread*. An audience Q & A will follow. A program booklet containing Hadas' and Lippman's poems are available to request in large print, braille, and audio upon registration. If you'd like to request a mailed program booklet, we ask that you register by **3/8** to ensure materials are delivered on time. Live captioning will be provided and ASL interpretation can be provided upon request. Register for free at <https://jbilibrary.org/catalog/jewish-poetry-workshops/> . If you prefer to register via email or over the phone, please contact JBI at register@jbilibrary.org or 646-616-3929.

**Jewish Plays Project: Join Chicago's Community Readers
Panel for This Year's Playwriting Contest
March 23rd (Time to be determined)
Via Zoom**

We are excited to share a special opportunity with JBI patrons to join the Jewish Plays Project's Chicago Community Readers Panel for the 2025 Jewish Playwriting Contest. If you are available on March 23, you can register to be part of the Chicago Play Readers Panel. Once you register and are accepted to be on the panel you will receive all seven plays. If you need a BRF or large print format, JBI will make those available to you.

On the 23rd you will discuss the plays with other readers over Zoom and vote to select three plays out of seven contenders to be featured in the Jewish Playwriting Contest. JBI will be providing all plays in large print and braille formats to any of our Patrons on the panel.

To register to become a member of the reading panel, please visit

the following

link: <https://jewishplaysproject.wufoo.com/forms/2025-jpp-contest-community-reader-registration/>. When completing the form, please be sure to select the **CHICAGO** contest event. Can't make the 23rd? Once the contest has ended and a winner crowned – all JBI Library patrons will be able to read all seven plays and listen to the winning play as part of our collection.

[About the Jewish Plays Project](#)

March Book Groups

Lori's Book Club

Wednesday, March 19th at 2:45pm ET

Via Zoom

Lori's book club will be discussing *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamont. To register, please contact our librarians at library@jbilibrary.org or 212-545-8025.

Joan's Book Club

Thursday, March 20th at 4pm ET

Via Zoom

Joan's March book club will be discussing *The History of Love* by Nicole Krauss. To register, please contact our librarians at library@jbilibrary.org or 212-545-8025.

NEW BOOKS ADDED TO THE COLLECTION:

Adult fiction:

"Too Many Men" by Lily Brett (EN407951)

New York businesswomen Ruth Rothwax struggles to understand her

family's losses during the Holocaust. She wants to go to Poland with her father to revisit this past but also confront her own future.

"Yosl Rakover Talks to God" by Zvi Kolitz (EN407224)

As the German tanks destroy the Warsaw ghetto, one of the few remaining fighters, Yosl Rakover, writes out his last words to God, seals the text in a glass bottle, and thrusts it into the rubble before preparing to die. The text surfaces in the 1950s and is anthologized and translated into many languages, but what is hailed an important testament of the Holocaust is in fact a short story.

Adult non-fiction:

"Landscape of The Metropolis of Death" by Otto Dov Kulka (EN408821)

A memoir of astounding literary and emotional power, exploring the permanent and indelible marks left by the Holocaust and a childhood spent in Auschwitz.

"From The Immemorial- The Origins of the Arab-Jewish conflict over Palestine" by Joan Peters (EN405051)

A controversial examination of the origins of the Arab-Jewish conflict over Palestine/Israel in the modern era.

"Jacob, Menahem, and Mimuon: A Family Epic" by Marcel Benabou (EN407364)

Benabou was born in Morocco in 1939. His parents wanted him to become a Rabbi, but at 17, he went to Paris to study ancient history instead. Here he delves into his uncommon family history while reflecting on the mysteries of memory, the past, and writing.

Poetry:

“Echolocation” by Sally Bliumis-Dunn (EN408808)

The poems swing back and forth from the natural world keenly observed--rain, birds, sunflowers, even a clam-- to the contortions of the human heart, mostly caused by hurt and loss.

“Finger Exercises For Poets” by Dorianne Laux (EN408817)

An engaging and inspiring invitation to practice poetry alongside one of its masters. With wide-ranging examples from classic and contemporary poets, Dorianne Laux demystifies the magic of language that makes great poetry and offers generative exercises to harness that magic.

“Opinel: Poems” by Rebecca Gibson Kaiser (EN408820)

Like the wooden-handled knife it's named for, Opinel is a book that pierces and sculpts the poet's personal history into something both painfully exposed and delicately rendered. The poems range over painful childhood memories, adult immersions in 'foreign' cultures, and the mysteries at the heart of long-lasting, self-renewing love.

For children & families:

“Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants” by Leah Rachel Berkowitz (EN408810)

Why did Queen Vashti, the other Purim royal, refuse to obey her king's commands? Although the traditional biblical text gives us no real clue, this story humorously imagines what it might have been like for a Queen to stand up for herself against a string of high-handed demands. In doing so, it demonstrates to children the value of understanding the worth of their own needs and desires.

“Fridays Are Special” by Chris Barash (EN408812)

Fridays are not like other days. Fridays are special! There's challah to bake, dinner to cook, family to greet, and lots of cozy fun to be had, all in preparation for Shabbat. Join this sweet family on a very special day of the week: Friday.

**"The Baker's Dozen #14: Summer Jobs" by Aidel Stein
(EN408818)**

Summertime's fun time—but not if you have "nothing to do. "Mrs. Baker comes up with an idea to keep her oldest daughter happy and busy all summer long.. For all the Baker kids this summer, only one rule, as usual, prevails: expect the unexpected!

Get in touch!

We are committed to serving you, and want to hear from you.

Visit our website at www.jbilibrary.org

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Connecting anyone who is blind, has low vision or has a print disability to Jewish life

110 East 30th Street, New York, NY 10016
(established in 1931 as the Jewish Braille Institute)