

Jewish American Heritage Month Booklist May 2012



Since 2004, Jewish American Heritage Month is recognized each May to celebrate over 350 years of contributions by Jewish American citizens to the culture and history of our country. Thanks to the efforts of Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida, and Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, President George W. Bush made the official proclamation for this commemoration on April 20, 2006. Its celebration is lead by the Jewish American Heritage Month Coalition.

Holocaust Remembrance Day marks the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. The internationally recognized date comes from the Hebrew calendar and corresponds to the 27th day of Nisan on that calendar. It is in April or May each year. In Hebrew, Holocaust Remembrance Day is called *Yom Hashoah*. In 2012 *Yom Hashoah* falls on April 19th.

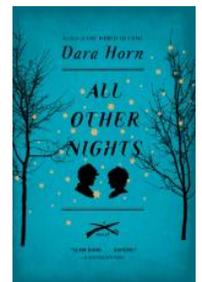
Below is a list of books, videos, and websites to provide important insight to the history of Jewish heritage and culture in America and the world. All books and media are available at the Norfolk Public Library, and the websites may be viewed online from home or the public computer stations located in any branch library. With respect to the custom of many Jews, the sacred name of the Supreme Being is written in this document at “G-d” so that if printed it is not defaced inadvertently. When searching the online catalog, the use an “o” in place of the dash.

Adult Fiction

The following selected fiction includes titles by award winning authors, recent best sellers, novels that are acclaimed, or titles that provide important insight to the history of Jewish heritage and culture.

All Other Nights: A Novel

(*Dara Horn*) Jacob Rappaport, a Jewish soldier in the Union army, struggles with difficult moral questions when he is ordered to murder his own uncle, who has been plotting an assassination attempt against President Lincoln.

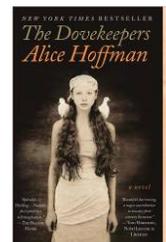


Boxer, Beetle: A Novel

(*Ned Beaman*) Kevin “Fishy” Broom received his nickname due to a rare condition that causes him to smell like rotting fish. A dealer of Nazi memorabilia, he finds himself kidnapped and must locate the remains of “Sinner” Roach a Jewish, nine toed boxer from the World War II. Darkly funny, profane and complex.

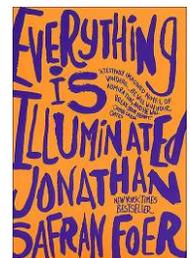
The Dovekeepers

(*Alice Hoffman*) Deep in the Judean desert in 70 CE is the final stand of 900 Jews against the Roman army at Masada. Hoffman weaves a rich tale around this historic event through the lives of four independent and resourceful women.



Everything is Illuminated

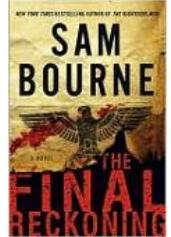
(*Jonathan Safran Foer*) A young Jewish American (who just happens to be named Jonathan Safran Foer) travels to the Ukraine to find the woman who saved his



grandfather from the Nazis. He is aided in his search by Alex Perchov, a naïve Ukrainian translator, Alex’s grandfather (also called Alex), and a flatulent mongrel dog named Sammy Davis Jr. Jr. On their journey through Eastern Europe’s obliterated landscape they unearth facts about the Nazi atrocities and the extent of Ukrainian complicity that have implications for Perchov as well as Safran Foer.

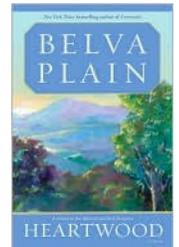
The Final Reckoning

(*Sam Bourne*) A chilling thriller about a clandestine brotherhood and a sixty-year old secret, based on the true story of a group of Holocaust survivors who sought revenge for Nazi war crimes. *Publisher’s Weekly* comments that it is “a solid suspense novel focused on the recent past”.



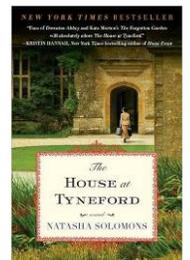
Heartwood: A Novel

(*Belva Plain*) Though Iris Stern considers herself a modern woman, with a successful academic career and a happy marriage, she still holds steadfast to her old-fashioned sensibilities. But as the mother of three adult children, each with their own lives and burdens to bear, she often finds those sensibilities called into question when confronted with the choices her children have made.



The House at Tyneford

(*Natasha Solomons*) In the spring of 1938, 19-year-old Elise flees Vienna where being a Jew has become increasingly dangerous. She leaves her upper crust lifestyle in Vienna to work as a parlor maid in England. At Tyneford, Elise befriends the owner’s impulsive son, Kit and is forever changed. Originally published in 2011 as *Novel in the Viola*.

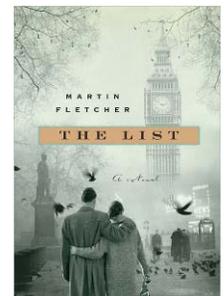


Kabbalah: A Love Story

(*Lawrence Kushner*) When an ancient text containing the answer to one of the eternal questions of the heart falls into the hands of Rabbi Kalman Stern, his life is transformed by his encounter with astronomer Isabel Benveniste, but he is unable to let true love into his life until he discovers the life-altering secret of the Zohar.

The List

(*Martin Fletcher*) In 1945, following the aftermath of World War II in a world still hostile to Jews, Austrian refugees Edith and Georg re-build their lives in London while expecting a child and searching for family members despite rampant anti-Semitism, assassination plots and terrorism.



No One is Here Except All of Us

(*Ramona Ausubel*) By making imagination a reality, a small Jewish community in the wilderness of Romania in 1939 denies their history and their present by reassigning roles, spouses, jobs and even families at the suggestion of an 11-year old girl. The villagers remove themselves from the outside world for years, but eventually that little girl grows up and the real world must be faced for her to save her husband and children.

The Tenth Song

(*Naomi Ragen*) When the unimaginable happens without warning, a mother and daughter must find a new path to happiness in this poignant novel from the beloved, bestselling author of *The Saturday Wife*. According to *Publisher's Weekly*, Ragen, one of the most popular authors in Israel, brings bitter intensity to this story of betrayal.



What We Are Made Of

(*Thomas Hettche*) One of the most outstanding voices in German literary fiction delivers a powerful and cinematic literary thriller in the vein of David Lynch, exploring post-9/11 America from NYC to Marfa, Texas.

What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank

(*Nathan Englander*) These eight new stories from the celebrated novelist and short-story writer Nathan Englander display a gifted young author grappling with the great questions of modern life, with a command of language and the imagination that place Englander at the very forefront of contemporary American fiction. Although clearly the product of one mind with a particular set of interests (Israel; American Jewry and suburbia; writing and reading; sex, survival, and the long shadow of the Holocaust) never cover the same territory.

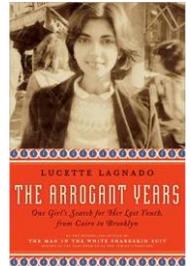


Adult Nonfiction

The following list is selected nonfiction by award winning authors, recent best sellers, and books that provide important insight to the history of Jewish heritage and culture.

The Arrogant Years: One Girl's Search for her Lost Youth, from Cairo to Brooklyn

(*Lucette Lagnado*) Lagnado reveals the story of her mother's, Edith, childhood in Old Cairo and her subsequent exodus to America. Including her own coming-of-age experiences in Brooklyn, Lagnado's richly written and insight will appeal to those interested in exile, assimilating to new cultures and family memoir.

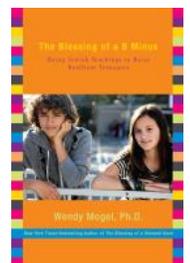


Born to Kvetch: Yiddish Language and Culture in all its Moods

(*Michael Wex*) A delightful excursion through the Yiddish language, the culture it defines and serves, and the fine art of complaint throughout history, Jews around the world have had plenty of reasons to lament. And for a thousand years, they've had the perfect language for it.

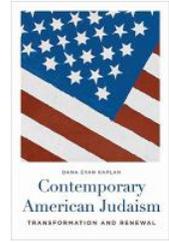
The Blessing of a B Minus: Using Jewish Teaching to Raise Resilient Teenagers

(*Wendy Mogel*) Mogel's sage advice on parenting young children has struck a chord with thousands of readers and made her one of today's most trusted parenting authorities. Now, in a long-awaited follow-up, Mogel addresses the question she hears most frequently: what to do when those children become teenagers, when their sense of independence and entitlement grows, the pressure to compete and succeed skyrockets, and communication becomes fraught with obstacles?



Contemporary American Judaism: Transformation and Renewal

(Dana Evan Kaplan) A pulpit rabbi and himself an American Jew, Dana Evan Kaplan follows this religious individualism from its postwar suburban roots to the hippie revolution of the 1960s and the multiple postmodern identities of today. From Hebrew tattooing to Jewish Buddhist meditation, Kaplan describes the remaking of historical tradition in ways that channel multiple ethnic and national identities.

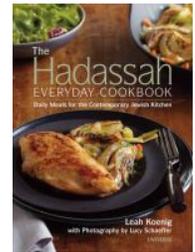


Defiance

(Nechama Tec) Chronicles the activities of a group of Jewish partisans in Belorussia during World War II, who were responsible for the largest armed rescue of Jews by Jews. Movie by the same name.

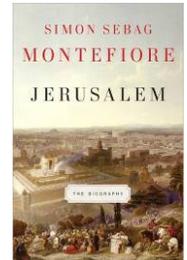
The Hadassah Everyday Cookbook: Daily Meals for the Contemporary Jewish Kitchen

(Leah Koenig) Provides recipes for everyday Jewish meals, from breakfasts and breads to soups, entrees, desserts, and snacks, combining iconic Jewish and American tastes with international cuisines.



Jerusalem: The Biography

(Simon Sebag Montefiore) Winner of the 2011 National Jewish Book Award for Book of the Year, Montefiore chronicles the past, present and speculates about the future of the city of Jerusalem.



The Jewish Body

(Melvin Konner) From a well-known doctor and anthropologist comes a history of the Jewish people from birth to burial. Konner takes the measure of the “Jewish body,” stopping along the way to various physical milestones, and even those most elusive and controversial of microscopic markers, Jewish genes.

Jewish Cooking Boot Camp: The Modern Girl's Guide to Cooking like a Jewish Grandmother

(Andrea Marks Carneiro) Presents more than fifty traditional Jewish recipes handed down in the author's family, along with expert tips from bartenders, nutritionists, and party planners, and interviews with rabbis about creating modern family traditions.

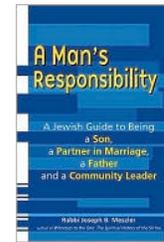


Laugh for G-d's Sake: Where Jewish Humor and Jewish Ethics Meet

(Stanley J. Schachter) Rabbi Schachter analyzes translated anecdotes and jokes in thematically-organized chapters (e.g., relations between bosses and workers, rich and poor and Jewish groups, and hope). The book includes cartoons, a glossary of texts cited and Hebrew and Yiddish terms and names, and an annotated list of resources.

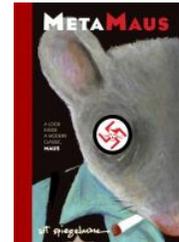
A Man's Responsibility: A Jewish Guide to Being a Son, a Partner in Marriage, a Father, and a Community Leader

(Joseph B. Meszler) A provocative look at how a new generation of Jewish men can grow spiritually, and in doing so, strengthen the intangible bonds of family, love, duty, and truth which ultimately lead to G-d.



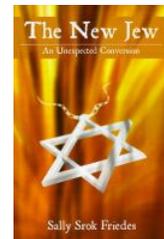
MetaMaus: A Look Inside a Modern Classic, Maus

(Art Spiegelman) Visually and emotionally rich, MetaMaus is as groundbreaking as the masterpiece whose creation it reveals. In the pages of MetaMaus, Art Spiegelman re-enters the Pulitzer prize-winning Maus, the modern classic graphic novel that has altered how we see literature, comics, and the Holocaust ever since it was first published twenty-five years ago. 2011 National Jewish Book Award Winner.



The New Jew: An Unexpected Conversion

(Sally Srok Friedes) *The New Jew* is the story of an unexpected road to conversion, from first invitation to temple, through encounters with rabbis that left her feeling angry and alienated, to the irresistible warmth of Jewish friends and family who drew her in with their exuberance.



Norfolk, Virginia: A Jewish History of the 20th Century

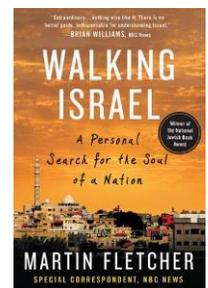
(Irwin M. Berent) An illustrated history of the Jewish community of Norfolk, Virginia, focusing especially on the first half of the 20th century.

Unorthodox: the Scandalous Rejection of my Hasidic Roots

(Deborah Feldman) Raised in the Satmar sect of Hasidic Judaism in Brooklyn by her grandparents, Feldman reveals what life is like as an independent spirit trapped within the confines of a strict religious community.

Walking Israel: A Personal Search for the Soul of a Nation

(Martin Fletcher) Winner of the Jewish National Book Award, NBC News Special Correspondent Martin Fletcher explores Israel's coastline from Lebanon to Gaza. He uses his insight to offer readers a unique perspective of Israel through its history, funny personal experiences, real life stories and novel insight.



Why Hebrew Goes from Right to Left: 201 Things You Never Knew About Judaism

(Ronald H. Isaacs) Entries are organized under 14 categories: the Hebrew language; Jewish holidays; unusual superstitions; dreams, demons, spirits, and evil forces; magic, medicine and healing, prayer, education, amazing Jewish miracles, origins; keeping kosher and Jewish foods, the Jewish woman and Jewish expressions.

Juvenile and Young Adult Fiction

The following selected fiction is to inform young people about Jewish history and culture through contemporary and historical fiction novels by award winning authors, recent best sellers, acclaimed novels, and titles that provide important insight to the history of the Jewish heritage and culture.

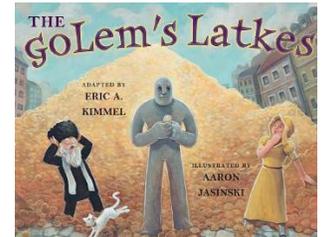
Even Higher: A Rosh Hashanah Story

(*I.L. Peretz*) A skeptical visitor to the village of Nemirov finds out where its rabbi really goes just before the Jewish New Year, when the villagers claim he goes to heaven to speak to G-d.



The Golem's Latkes

(*adapted by Eric A. Kimmel; ill. by Aaron Jasinski*) In this lighthearted tale Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel visits the Emperor, leaving a new housemaid to prepare for his Hanukkah party, but returns to find that she has misused the clay man he created. 2011 National Jewish Book Award Winner.



Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword

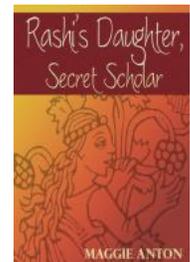
(*Barry Deutsch*) Longing to fight dragons over taking the advice of various family members, spunky ten-year-old Mirka Herschberg hones her skills in her Orthodox Jewish community before accepting a challenge from a witch to defeat a giant troll.

The Other Half of Life: A Novel Based on the True Story of the MS *St. Louis* [YA]

(*Kim Ablon Whitney*) In 1939, fifteen-year-old Thomas sails on a German ship bound for Cuba with more than nine hundred German Jews expecting to be granted safe haven.

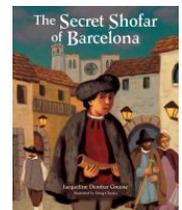
Rashi's Daughter: Secret Scholar

(*Maggie Anton*) In eleventh-century Troyes, France, Joheved, the eldest daughter of a respected teacher and Bible commentator, studies Talmud after her days of helping run a household and the family winemaking business, but worries that her future husband will agree with those who believe women should not be scholars.



The Secret Shofar of Barcelona

(*Jacqueline Dembar Greene*) In the late 1500s, while the conductor of the Royal Orchestra of Barcelona prepares for a concert to celebrate Spain's colonies in the New World, his son secretly practices playing the Shofar to help Jews to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, who must hide their faith from the Inquisition.

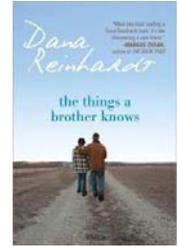


So Punk Rock (and Other Ways to Disappoint Your Mother): A Novel [YA]

(*Micol Ostow*) Four suburban New Jersey students from the Leo R. Gittleman Jewish Day School form a rock band that becomes inexplicably popular, creating exhilaration, friction, confrontation, and soul-searching among its members.

The Things a Brother Knows [YA]

(*Dana Reinhardt*) After 3 years at war, Boaz Katznelson, a young marine, returns to his family and younger brother Levi as a hero in his Boston suburb. Life should be able to pick up where he left it, but his brother, Levi, quickly notices that all is not well with Boaz and he must reach out to help his brother. Reinhardt sensitively represents the after effects of war on families and the soldiers who fight in them.



Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba [YA]

(*Margarita Engle*) Escaping from Nazi Germany to Cuba in 1939, a young Jewish refugee dreams of finding his parents again, befriends a local girl with painful secrets of her own, and discovers that the Nazi darkness is never far away.



Queen of Secrets [YA]

(*Jenny Meyerhoff*) Fifteen-year-old Essie Green, an orphan who has been raised by her secular Jewish grandparents in Michigan, experiences conflicting loyalties and confusing emotions when her aunt, uncle, and cousin move back from New York, and her very religious cousin tries to fit in with the other football players at Essie's high school, one of whom is Essie's popular new boyfriend.

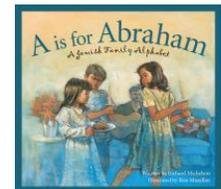


Juvenile and Young Adult Nonfiction

The following list of selected nonfiction is to educate young people about Jewish history and culture by award winning authors, recent best sellers, titles that are acclaimed, or titles that provide important insight to the history of the Jewish heritage and culture.

A is for Abraham: A Jewish Family Alphabet

(*Richard Michelson*) This illustrated alphabet book is for a general audience covering many important people, rituals, and traditions such as Bar and Bat Mitzvah, King David, Israel, klezmer music, Passover, Tikkun Olam, and many more. Text from A to Z includes simple poetry for younger readers and detailed expository text for older readers



The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How Muslims Rescued Jews During the Holocaust

(*Karen Gray Ruelle*) Presents the story of how Si Kaddour Benghabret, rector of the Grand Mosque of Paris, and other Muslims, gave Jews shelter and worked in the resistance to help them escape Nazi persecution during the German occupation of Paris.

The Jewish Americans

(*Marissa Lingen*) Describes the history of Jewish immigration to the United States from the eighteenth century to the present, including the reasons for immigration, how they thrived, and the cultural legacies Jewish immigrants have left behind.

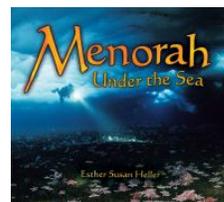
Jewish Holidays Cookbook: Festive Meals for Celebrating the Year

(*Jill Colella Bloomfield*) Discusses eleven Jewish holidays and offers recipes for the ancient and modern foods traditionally served, from challah bread to potato latkes, with suggestions for planning kosher meals.



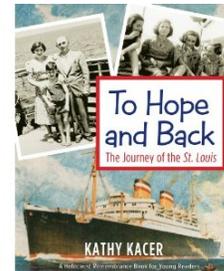
Menorah Under the Sea

(*Esther Susan Heller*) Describes how, while studying sea urchins in Antarctica, marine biologist David Ginsburg celebrated Hanukkah by creating his own menorah on the sea floor.



To Hope and Back: The Journey of the St. Louis

(*Kathy Kacer*) Lisa and Sol board the luxury ship *St. Louis* in Hamburg, Germany, on May 13, 1939. They are Jewish, as are almost all of the 937 passengers on board, and although war has not been officially declared in Europe, the Nazis have been persecuting Jews for years. As they set sail for Cuba, the atmosphere on the ship is optimistic, led by the German captain Gustave Shröder, who is determined to see his passengers to safety. But as they learn that Hitler's propaganda has turned the country against them, the mood changes to despair. They are turned away—first from Cuba, then the United States, and then Canada.



What Makes Someone a Jew?

(*Lauren Seidman*) Rhyming text describes Jewish customs and religious tenets, explaining that it is not the way a person looks that makes them Jewish, but the way that they act.

DVD

The following selected films are to provide important insight to the history of Jewish heritage and culture through fictional accounts or documentaries. (Unless otherwise noted, DVDs are for mature audiences)

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (based on the Juvenile book of the same title- rated PG-13)

(*Miramax Films*) Set in Poland during World War II, innocent and naive 8-year-old Bruno is bored and restless in his new home. Ignoring his mother, he sets off on an adventure in the woods. He comes across a high fence which separates him from the people he can see through it. Soon he meets a young boy in striped pajamas, and a surprising friendship develops.

Defiance

(*Paramount Vantage*) The deep forests of Poland and Belorussia are the domain of the occupying Germans during World War II.



Everything is Illuminated

Based on the critically-acclaimed novel by Jonathan Safran Foer, this movie tells the story of a young man's quest to find the woman who saved his grandfather in a small Ukrainian town that was wiped off the map by the Nazi invasion. What starts out as a journey to piece together one family's story under absurd circumstances turns into a meaningful journey with a powerful series of revelations.



Live and Become

(Menemsha Films) A young boy who isn't an orphan is transported away from his home during Operation Moses at a Sudanese refugee camp, in order to honor his mother's wishes of finding a better and safer life.

Resistance: Untold Stories of Jewish Partisans

(Garth Group, Inc.) Up to 30,000 Jews may have fled to Europe's forests, arming themselves to fight the Nazis, with rebellions in other ghettos and in some camps. Rare archival footage, historical photographs, and original artwork by partisan fighter Alexander Bogen document the lost history.

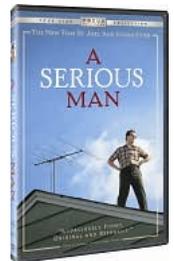
Sarah's Key

(Anchor Bay) In modern-day Paris, an American journalist finds her life becoming entwined with a young girl whose family was torn apart during the notorious Vel d'Hiv round up, which took place in Paris, in 1942. She stumbles upon a family secret which will link her forever to the destiny of a young Jewish girl, Sarah. Based on the bestselling book by the same title by Tatiana de Rosnay.



Serious Man

(Joel & Ethan Coen / Universal) Physics professor Larry Gopnik (Stuhlbarg) can't believe his life. His wife is leaving him for his best friend, his unemployed brother won't move off the couch, someone is threatening his career, his kids are a mystery and his neighbor is tormenting him by sunbathing nude. Struggling to make sense of it all, Larry consults three different rabbis and their answers lead him on a twisted journey of faith, family, delinquent behavior, and mortality.

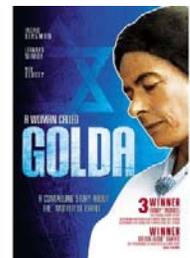


The Unborn

(Universal) Casey Beldon has become plagued by merciless dreams, visions of strange looking dogs, and an evil child with bright blue eyes. Casey meets a woman named Sofi who explains that as a child, she had a twin brother who was killed in Nazi experiments and he was brought back to life by a dybbuk who intended to use his body as a portal into the world of the living. Sofi killed the dybbuk and now it haunts her family for revenge. Sofi refers Casey to Rabbi Sendak who can perform a Jewish exorcism to remove the dybbuk.

A Woman Called Golda

(Operation Prime Time) Golda Meir grew up on the streets of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She harbored an incredible dream: she wanted to help the Jewish people build a new home. Her arduous journey led to a dusty kibbutz in Palestine and the struggle to establish the nation of Israel. Through hardship, war, and countless sacrifices, Golda survived it all and became Israel's first female prime minister.



Databases

The following databases are academic research tools that provide information about people and historical events in Jewish history. Many include video, primary documents and photographs. For access from home or elsewhere, use your 13-digit library card number as your password.

Biography in Context

Includes full-text articles from hundreds of periodicals. Search for people based on one or more personal facts such as birth and death year, nationality, ethnicity, occupation or gender, or combine criteria to create a highly-targeted custom search.

Encyclopedia of World Biography

Approximately 7,000 biographies on notables from every part of the world and from all time periods. Includes thousands of photos, a consolidated index, and more.

Encyclopedia Virginia

A chronicle of the state's history, politics, and geography through the perspectives of all the ethnically, culturally, and linguistically diverse peoples who have lived there.

General Reference Center Gold

Use General Reference Center Gold to find articles from newspapers, reference books, and periodicals, many with full-text and images. Find the latest current events, popular culture, business and industry coverage, the arts and sciences, sports, hobbies, and more.

Infotrac Religion & Philosophy Collection

Over 640,000 articles on Religion and Philosophy.

World Book Online Reference Center

This database has state-of-the-art multimedia, maps, editor-reviewed Web sites, and more.

Websites

The following websites will provide information for those who are interested in the research of Jewish history and culture in America and throughout the world, providing insight from recent issues to ancient history.

Center for Jewish History: www.cjh.org/

The Center for Jewish History is the home of five preeminent Jewish institutions dedicated to history, culture, and art. It unites under one roof of collections that bring together centuries of Jewish life.

The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life www.msje.org/

A site providing news, history, education, culture and art, media and a bookstore promoting Southern Jewish heritage and the significant contributions Southern Jews have made on their communities.

Jewish American Heritage Month www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/

A multi-media web portal of photographs, essays, recordings, and documents about Jewish Americans' contributions to history in provided cooperatively by the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Jewish American History Foundation www.jewish-history.com/

The Jewish-American History Documentation Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides full digital text of primary historical documents previously unavailable to the general public except in historical society archives or on reels of microfilm.

Jewish American Heritage Month Coalition www.jewishamericanheritagemonth.us/

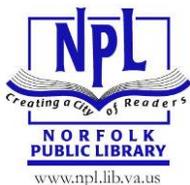
A national clearinghouse of commemorative events, educational resources, and story-gathering website.

The Moses Myers house www.chrysler.org/about-the-museum/historic-houses/

The stately Moses Myers House and its peerless collection create an exceptionally accurate picture of the late Federal period and the life of this prosperous Jewish family. Moses Myers, an early American entrepreneur and leading citizen, built the house In 1797 to accommodate his growing family and prominence. This Chrysler Museum historical house is open to visitors. Admission is free, and the museum is open Wednesday – Sunday for scheduled guided tours.

Norfolk, Virginia History www.norfolkhistory.com/jewishhistory.htm

A website of Hampton Roads history with an emphasis on local Jewish history.



Norfolk Public Library

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www.npl.lib.va.us / www.facebook.com/NorfolkPublicLibrary