

Rabbi Buchdahl's Quirky, Personal, Non-Comprehensive Recommendations for Further Learning

This list was generated in response to my Rosh Hashanah Sermon 5783/2022. A short list of some of my favorites for those who want to “go and learn” more.
As categorized by the 3 Names of our People: *Ivri, Yehudi, Yisraeli*.

IVRI, HEBREWS

Boundary crossers: Books about our people's mission to help and our place as a minority in the diaspora

- American Judaism by Jonathan D. Sarna: *the definitive history of Jews in America by a preeminent historian.*
- America's Jewish Women by Pamela S. Nadell: *how Jewish women have been at the forefront of social causes in America from colonial times to RBG.*
- New Perspectives in American Jewish History by Mark Raider and Gary Zola: *a new sourcebook of previously unseen American historical artifacts.*
- Antisemitism: Here and Now by Deborah Lipstadt: *a very readable, balanced view of antisemitism, it's history and evolution.*
- Not in God's Name by Jonathan Sacks: *a challenging read of Biblical stories and how they can be misused in the name of extremism.*
- The Torah, A Women's Commentary: *the Torah told from the historically absent women's perspective.*
- Reform Judaism (website/online learning): *The movement that made me, and has welcomed so many who felt the “stranger” in the Jewish community.*

YEHUDI, JEWS

Thanks-givers: Books about living a life of gratitude

- The Book of Blessings by Marcia Falk: *a beautiful book of blessings for every occasion, both traditional and created.*
- Jewish Stories One Generation Tells Another by Penina Schram: *stories to delight.*
- Poems of Jerusalem and Love Poems by Yehuda Amichai: *Amichai makes me wonder at the complexity and miracle of Israel, and Israelis.*
- My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew by Abigail Pogrebin: *a seeker's discovery of the joy and meaning in living out a full, Jewish year.*
- Big Book of Jewish Humor by William Novak and Moshe Waldoks: *it's how we've survived!*
- Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life — in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There) by Sarah Hurwitz: *Michelle Obama's speechwriter discovers her Judaism!*
- [Institute for Jewish Spirituality](#) (website/online learning): *Where to learn mussar, meditation and meaning—all of which have helped me cultivate a grateful heart.*
- [Sefaria](#) (website/online learning): *Every traditional Jewish text online and searchable. With source sheets on any subject imaginable! I feel grateful for this website every day!*

YISRAEL, ISRAEL

God wrestlers: Books about wrestling with our tradition, our God, and our land

- [A Guide for the Perplexed](#) by Dara Horn: *an imaginative novel that whisks you through Jewish history through the frame of Maimonides' master work.*
- [When Bad Things Happen to Good People](#) by Harold Kushner: *for when you struggle with God in the face of evil.*
- [Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor](#) by Yossi Klein Halevi: *a thoughtful Israeli's view of the conflict, with an eye towards empathy for his neighbor.*
- [Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel](#) by Francine Klagsbrun: *a story of the breadth of young Israel's history told through the seminal female figure of Golda.*
- [Liberal Judaism](#) by Eugene B. Borowitz: *Helped me define my Reform theology.*
- [The Essential Talmud](#) by Adin Steinsaltz: *It's. Essential.*
- [Back to the Sources](#) by Barry W. Holz: *want to know what the Mishnah, Talmud, and Tanach are? Brilliant little essays on the core texts of Judaism.*
- [This is Real and you are Totally Unprepared](#) by Alan Lew: *Best preparation for the High Holidays you can find in a book. AKA—how to be brokenhearted and open your heart to God.*
- [As a Driven Leaf](#) by Milton Steinberg: *a brilliant novelization of the most famous 1st heretic from Rabbinic times—for anyone who is an atheist, agnostic or struggling.*
- [Pardes](#) (website/online learning): *where I spent a summer studying in Israel, for traditional text study.*
- [The Shalom Hartman Institute](#) (website/online learning): *a pluralistic Jewish community of scholars who believe Jewish ideas can change the world.*
- [Hadar](#) (website/online learning): *an egalitarian, serious community of learners, not just for Jewish professionals!*