

הקשר היהודי שלך


Your Jewish (Internet) Connection!

Jewish Literature ... Online!

Brought to you by the TBA Lifelong Learning Committee – Written by Linda S Trapasso

Jewish Literature – Online!

I really do love to read and lately I've been looking for something different from what I usually read. So I did an Internet search and discovered the world of online Jewish literature.

The **Jewish Review of Books** (<http://www.jewishreviewofbooks.com/>) is a good place to start. It describes itself as “a quarterly publication (in print and on the web) for serious readers with Jewish interests. In our pages, leading writers and scholars discuss the newest books and ideas about religion, literature, culture, and politics, as well as fiction, poetry, and the arts.” It is a subscription-based publication, including the online version. If you click on Current Issue near the top of the page, the list of articles displays. Those that display a key  are for subscribers only. However, there are 15 articles listed and half are available without subscription. The article that caught my eye was “Not Just Hummus”. This book review covers two different cookbooks published in Israel. And cookbooks are one of my favorite kinds of book.



About.com is a great web site for its breadth of information and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). The **Judaism** site is no exception. Go here for a list of Jewish magazines (http://judaism.about.com/od/eazines/Magazines_Eazines.htm). The list includes a wide range of Judaism and articles, from commentary, arts, philosophy, first person stories, and more. For example, click on **Shma**

(<http://www.shma.com>). When the page displays, click on Featured under the logo, and then select Book Reviews. The review titled “The Physics of Belief” focuses on two books that discuss science and the divine, and how they are not exclusive. For me, being a science major, that's intriguing.

Another list of magazines and ezines is located at this web site – **The Review Review** (<http://www.thereviewreview.net/publishing-tips/lchaim-lit-mags-jewish-thought>). Even though the list is focused for writers of Jewish literature, it's useful for finding a publication that suits your sensibilities. And there's something for everyone, from **The Arava Review**, out of Vermont, to **Zeek**, the world's oldest Jewish online magazine.

Jewish Fiction.net (<http://www.jewish-fiction.net>) is “the first English-language journal devoted exclusively to the publishing of Jewish fiction. Our purpose is to showcase the finest contemporary writing on Jewish themes (either written in, or translated into, English), and to provide an online community for writers and readers of Jewish fiction from around the world.” When the site opens, click Current Issue on the left for the list of short stories now available. I couldn't help myself from reading a couple of stories as I looked over the site. The topics are diverse but always with a Jewish theme. If you click on Archive to the left, you can register (free!) and read stories from previous issues. Now I know exactly where to come when I want a short read.



Drash: Northwest Mosaic is a literary review filled with poetry, prose, and photos encouraging the redemptive nature of life from Jewish and other perspectives. What's most interesting about this publication is that it's published by Temple Beth Am in Seattle, Washington (<http://www.templebetham.org/music/drash/>). The publication is in response to the increasing number of Jews in the northwestern USA and the growing number of northwestern Jewish writers. There's a sample you can view from the synagogue page (scroll down the page about half way to the link “first 38 pages of our second issue of Drash”). You'll find some beautiful poetry.



If you enjoy listening to interviews, then **The Book of Life** podcasts are for you (<http://www.jewishbooks.blogspot.com/>). **The Book of Life** is an interview-format audio program that features interviews with authors, illustrators, musicians, filmmakers, website creators, and others involved in the Jewish arts. Scroll down the page to see items for Hanukkah Read Up!, November Jewish Book Carnival, and A Song for My Sister (a children's book). These podcasts are supported in part by the **Association of Jewish Libraries**, which has a great resource page (<http://www.jewishlibraries.org/main/Resources.aspx>) with a People of the Books blog and AJL Valuefinder, a searchable, limited Jewish children's books database.

This is the time of year when I have more time for reading, and I'm looking forward to these new finds!