

Jewish Resources You Can Enjoy at Home: For Adults

Concerts/Performances:

- Trio Sefardi will be presenting a virtual concert on Monday evening, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. featuring Sephardic music from the Balkans and Turkey, and songs by the amazing singer/composer Flory Jagoda.

For information on how to see and hear the concert, visit <http://bit.ly/3sephardi>.

- National Yiddish Theater Folksbiene -- from the folks who brought us "Fiddler on the Roof" in Yiddish -- check out their live social media performances **this week**: <https://nytf.org/>

Books:

- *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality and a Deeper Connection to Life -- In Judaism*, by Sarah Hurwitz (Spiegel and Grau, 2019). A young, savvy political speechwriter rediscovers the wisdom to be found in the age-old teachings and practices of Judaism. The Beth Am Staff read this insightful book earlier this year.
- *An Innocent Bystander: The Killing of Leon Klinghoffer*, by Julie Salamon (Little, Brown and Co. 2019). A well-researched account of the Klinghoffer murder and its aftermath.
- *In the Beginning: A Short History of the Hebrew Language*, by Joel Hoffman (NYU Press, 2006). Hoffman, who served as translator of the 10-volume series *My People's Prayer Book*, offers an energetic and entertaining account of the 3000 year evolution of Hebrew.
- *A Pigeon and a Boy*, by Meir Shalev (Schocken, 2009). A beautiful and poignant novel by one Israel's greatest writers.
- *The Weight of Ink*, by Rachel Kadish (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017) -- Set in 17th century England and the 21st century and featuring a fascinating female protagonist, this novel rewards the patient reader.
- *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank: Stories*, by Nathan Englander (Vintage Reprint Edition, 2013). Englander's second volume of short stories makes for especially timely reading in the current climate of rising antisemitism.
- *The History of Love*, by Nicole Kraus (W.W. Norton and Co., 2006) -- A long-lost book reappears, mysteriously connecting an old man searching for his son and a girl seeking a cure for her widowed mother's loneliness. You may want to check out *Forest Dark*, also by Kraus, set among seekers in contemporary Tel Aviv.
- *In the Image*, by Dara Horn (W.W. Norton and Co. 2002) Horn's first novel, winner of the National Jewish Book Award, travels through time and space to explore the relationship between an elderly Jewish refugee and a young woman. Check out Horn's other works, as well, including *Eternal Life*, *The World to Come*, *A Guide for the Perplexed* and *All Other Nights*.
- *36 Arguments for the Existence of God*, Rebecca Newberger Goldstein (Atlantic Books, 2010) -- Psychologist Cass Seltzer's book, *The Variety of Religious Illusion*, has become a surprise runaway bestseller. Dubbed 'the atheist with a soul,' Cass's sudden celebrity has upended his life and brought back the ghosts of his past. Over the course of one week, Cass's theories about our need to keep faith are borne out in ways he could never have imagined.

Interesting Torah Commentaries:

- *The Bedside Torah: Wisdom, Visions and Dreams*, by Bradley Artson and Miryam Glazer (2001) and *The Everyday Torah: Weekly Reflections and Inspirations*, by Bradley Artson (2008)
- *Covenant and Conversation* -- this five-volume series makes available in book form the brilliant essays of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain. Many of his commentaries are available online.
- *URJ Ten Minutes of Torah* -- Great Jewish content by leading voices in the Reform movement delivered to your inbox every day. See: <https://reformjudaism.org/learning/ten-minutes-torah>

Online Articles and Essays:

- *Mosaic* -- an online Jewish magazine with a wide variety of articles. See: <https://mosaicmagazine.com/>
- *Tablet: A New Read on Jewish Life*. See: <https://www.tabletmag.com/>
- *Moment Magazine* -- See: <https://momentmag.com/>
- *Times of Israel* -- excellent source for news from Israel and op-eds from many perspectives. See: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/>

Podcasts:

- Unorthodox -- A fresh take on Jewish news and culture
- Judaism Unbound -- Big ideas in the Jewish World
- Israel Story -- The “This American Life” of Israel

TV / Movies:

- *The Plot Against America* (HBO) - a new dramatization of the timely Philip Roth novel
- *Fauda* (Netflix) -- an Israeli-American TV series about a top Israeli agent who comes out of retirement to hunt for a Palestinian terrorist he thought he'd killed.
- *Our Boys* (HBO) Filmed in Israel, *Our Boys* is based on the true events which led to the outbreak of war in Gaza. The series follows the investigation of Mohammed Abu Khdeir's murder, and tells the story of all those involved, Jews and Arabs alike, whose lives were forever changed by these events.
- *Beauty and the Baker* (Amazon Prime) -- Israeli romantic comedy series about the impossible romance between a simple baker and an international supermodel
- *Shtisel* (Netflix) - check out this hugely popular series set in Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox community
- *School Ties*, (Amazon Prime) - a 1992 feature film about antisemitism at a prep school, starring a young Brendan Fraser, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck.
- *Prime* (Amazon Prime) -- This 2005 American romantic comedy stars Meryl Streep as a Jewish therapist whose son falls for a divorced older woman (Uma Thurman)
- *Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (Amazon Prime)

- *The Frisco Kid* (Amazon Prime) In this classic 1979 comedy, directed by Mel Brooks and starring Gene Wilder and Harrison Ford, Rabbi Avram Belinsky lands in Philadelphia intending to travel to San Francisco, where he plans on starting a synagogue. Quickly relieved of his belongings by a group of con artists, Avram optimistically sets out alone on foot toward the Wild West.

Classes:

- Find excellent, free online courses with Jewish themes on the Tikvah website: <https://tikvahfund.org/courses/> See, for example, “Declaring Israel’s Independence,” taught by the noted history Martin Kramer, or Ruth Wisse’s course on “Tevye the Dairyman.” For a list of podcasts, see: <https://tikvahfund.org/library/podcast-ruth-wisse-on-tevy-the-dairyman/>
- Yiddish Book Center -- offers several online courses and lecture series on Yiddish literature and culture. bit.ly/YBCenter

Also:

- Check out [this list from Kveller](#)
- Check out [this link from the URJ about Israeli TV](#)