

## TEMPLE SINAI LIBRARY JEWISH SOCIAL ACTION BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Temple Sinai Library Committee created this bibliography of books currently in the library as a resource for congregants and friends. The bibliography is divided into various categories. Within each category, the books are arranged in date order, with the most recent at the top. The first set of parentheses contains the year of publication. The second set of parentheses contains the call number to help you find the book in the library. (If there is no call number, the book is on order.)

The library has many books that could be included in a Jewish social action bibliography; this selection focuses on activism in response to a problem, as opposed to a more academic treatment of the problem. We encourage you to visit the library to find more books in this area. The librarian, Ruth Polk, is always happy to help you find books in any subject area that may be of interest to you. You can contact Ruth at [rpolk@templesinaidc.org](mailto:rpolk@templesinaidc.org) or 202-363-6394 x 218.

This is an evolving document. We welcome suggestions for other books on Jewish social action to include in the bibliography or acquire for the library. Please give your suggestions to Ruth.

### General or Cross-Cutting

Judith Schindler and Judy Seldin-Cohen, *Recharging Judaism: How Civic Engagement is Good for Synagogues, Jews, and America* (2017). “The essential and timely guide for every synagogue and community seeking to strengthen the bonds of Jewish communal life through advocating for social justice.” CCAR Press.

Seth Limmer and Jonah Pesner (editors), *Moral Resistance and Spiritual Authority* (2017). “This foundational new book reminds us of our ancient obligation to bring justice to the world. The essays in this collection explore the spiritual underpinnings of our Jewish commitment to justice, using Jewish text and tradition, as well as contemporary sources and models. Among the topics covered are women’s health, LGBTQ rights, healthcare, racial justice, speaking truth to power, and community organizing.” CCAR Press.

Shmuly Yanklowitz, *Pirkei Avot: A Social Justice Commentary* (2017). This commentary explores the [Pirkei Avot] text through a lens of contemporary social justice and moral philosophy, engaging both classical commentators and modern thinkers.” CCAR Press.

Shmuly Yanklowitz, *The Soul of Jewish Social Justice* (2014) (667 Y 23).

Bruce Zuckerman, Dan Schnur and Lisa Ansell (editors), *American Politics and the Jewish Community The Jewish role in American life: an Annual Review* (2013) (620 S 362). This is volume 11 of the Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life (at the University of Southern California) Annual Review.

Jill Jacobs and David Saperstein, *Where Justice Dwells: A Hands-On Guide to Doing Social Justice in Your Jewish Community* (2011) (667 J 17).

Elliot N. Dorff and Danya Ruttenberg (editors), *Jewish Choices, Jewish Voices: Social Justice* (2010) (667 D 695).

Elliot N. Dorff and Danya Ruttenberg (editors), *Jewish Choices, Jewish Voices: War and National Security* (2010) (667 D 695).

Jill Jacobs, *There Shall Be No Needy - Pursuing Social Justice through Jewish Law and Tradition* (2009) (667 J 17).

Sidney Schwartz, *Judaism and Justice: The Jewish Passion to Repair the World* (2006) (139.4 S 411).

David A. Harris, *In the Trenches, Selected Speeches and Writings of an American Jewish Activist* (2000) (600.2 H36 V 2).

Albert Vorspan, *Jewish Dimensions of Social Justice: Tough Moral Choices of our Time* (1998) (136.75 V 955). A wide-ranging work dealing with such issues as abortion, capital punishment, bioethics, economic justice, environment, Israel, civil rights, anti-semitism, etc. This is an update of the following book.

Albert Vorspan, *Tough Choices: Jewish Perspectives on Social Justice* (1992) (667 V 955).

Albert Vorspan, *To Do Justly: A Junior Casebook for Social Action* (1969) (667 V 955t).

Albert Vorspan and Eugene J. Lipman, *Justice and Judaism* (1956) (667 VOR 955C.2).

Religious Action Center, *Invisible: The Story of Modern Day Slavery, A Social Justice Haggadah* (undated) (244.29 R 382). From the RAC's Passover and Modern Slavery Resources.

## **Gun Violence**

Menacham Creditor, *Not By Might: Channeling the Power of Faith to End Gun Violence* (2016) (667 C 912). The second collection of writings by faith leaders on the topic of gun violence, following the mass shooting targeting the LGBT community in Orlando, Florida.

Menacham Creditor, *Peace in Our Cities: Rabbis Against Gun Violence* (2013) (667 C 912). In the wake of the 2012 shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, this book asks some hard questions and “presents a passionate, hopeful, healing response to a moment of national pain and fragility.”

## **Civil Rights**

Allen Krause, *To Stand Aside or Stand Alone: Southern Reform Rabbis and the Civil Rights Movement* (2016) (662.7 K 91).

Marc Shneier, *Shared Dreams: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Jewish Community* (2008) (661.7 S 358). “Schneier, founding rabbi of the Hampton Synagogue on Long Island, wrote this book to foster friendly relations between African-Americans and Jews. Based on interviews and previously unpublished sources, this is a commendable account of the associations Martin Luther King Jr. had with Jews and Jewish organizations.” *Publisher’s Weekly*.

Paul Berman, *Blacks and Jews: Alliances and Arguments* (1994) (661.7 B 631).

James Baldwin, *Black Anti-Semitism and Jewish Racism* (1970) (661.7 B 627).

## **Poverty**

Charles A. Krolloff, *54 Ways You Can Help the Homeless* (1993) (650 K 93).

## **Social Action Leadership**

Hasia Diner, *Julius Rosenwald: Redeeming the World* (2017) (B2 R 813).

Erica Brown, *Inspired Jewish Leadership: Practical Approaches to Building Strong Communities* (2008) (620 B 877 305.892/4).

Bennett Muraskin, *Let Justice Well up like Water: Progressive Jews from Hillel to Helen Suzman* (2004) (B2 M 972).

Alberta Eiseman, *Rebels and Reformers: Biographies of Four Jewish Americans: Uriah Phillips Levy, Ernestine L. Rose, Louis D. Brandeis, Lillian D. Wald* (1976) (B1 E 36).

## **Environment**

Jeremy Bernstein, *The Way into Judaism and the Environment* (2006) (659 B 474).

Martin Jaffe, *Judaism and Environmental Ethics* (2001) (136.75 Y 12).

Ellen Bernstein, *Ecology & the Jewish Spirit: Where Nature and the Sacred Meet* (1998) (009.5 BER 531).

Ellen Bernstein and Dan Fink, *Let the Earth Teach You Torah: a Guide to Teaching Jewish Ecological Wisdom* (1992) (009.5 B 531).

## **Jewish Action Against Anti-Semitism**

David Nirenberg, *Anti-Judaism: the Western tradition* (2013) (662 N 721).

Victoria Saker Woeste, *Henry Ford's War on Jews and the Legal Battle against Hate Speech* (2012) (662.707 W 843).

Ron Rosenbaum, *Those Who Forget the Past: the Question of Anti-Semitism* (2004) (662 R 813).

Nathan C. Belth, *A Promise to Keep: A Narrative of the American Encounter with Anti-Semitism* (1979) (770.9 B 453).

Stuart Svonkin, *Jews Against Prejudice: American Jews and the Fight for Civil Liberties* (1977) (662.7 S 969).

### **Feminism**

Melissa R. Klapper, *Ballots, Babies, and Banners of Peace: American Jewish Women's Activism, 1890-1940* (2017) (619.7 K 91). “. . . a study of preeminent social movements, an investigation of modern Jewish history, and an examination of the role of women in modern times.”

Debra L. Schultz, *Going South: Jewish Women in the Civil Rights Movement* (2001) (619.7 S 387).

Maurie Sacks, *Active Voices: Women in Jewish Culture* (1995) (619 A 188).

Sylvia Barack Fishman, *A Breath of Life: Feminism in the American Jewish Community* (1993) (619.9 F 537).

### **Education**

Paul Tough, *Whatever it Takes - Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America* (2009) (658.5 T 722). “The Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) is a non-profit organization for poverty-stricken children and families living in Harlem, providing free support in the form of parenting workshops, a pre-school program, three charter schools, and child-oriented health programs for thousands of children and families. The HCZ is ‘aimed at doing nothing less than breaking the cycle of generational poverty for the thousands of children and families it serves.’”

### **Food Policy**

Mary L. Zamore, *The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic* (2011). (221.1 Z 25s). “. . . a rich dialogue about the intersection of Judaism and food . . . integrating values such as ethics, community, and spirituality into our dietary practice. . . . includes topics such as food production, the environment, personal health, agricultural workers' rights, animal rights, the spirituality of eating and fasting, gratitude, caring for the hungry, the challenges of eating together, and more.”

Mark Bittman, *Food Matters: A Guide to Conscious Eating* (2009) (614.019 B 624). “. . . no-nonsense volume loaded with compelling information about how the food we eat is doing damage to the environment, what changes to make and why.”

## **Fiction**

Jonathan Lethem, *Dissident Gardens* (2013) (FIC L 647). This readable novel is “a multigenerational saga of revolutionaries and activists, the civil rights movement and the counterculture, from the 1930s Communists to the 2010s Occupy movement, and is mostly set in Sunnyside Gardens, Queens and in Greenwich Village.”

## **For Children**

Fawzia Gilani-Williams, *Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam* (2017) (YPB PEACE G 463). “Based on an old folktale with both Jewish and Arabic roots, this version of the story focuses on Yaffa and Fatima, two neighbors who are Jewish and Muslim, respectively. The first half of the book sets up their friendship and lays out the different customs of each woman. Then hard times come. Separately, the friends each come up with an identical plan to help the other one out. The text is simple but lovely, as are the muted but expressive illustrations—both of which suit the story perfectly. Its message of mutual respect and of the power of friendship to transcend differences is especially welcome right now. Recommended for ages 4-9.”

Debbie Levy and Elizabeth Baddeley, *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark* (2016) (YPB BIO G). “This picture book biography of Justice Ginsburg traces her achievements in the field of law back to her girlhood years, emphasizing for readers the importance of dissent in the face of an unequal society.” School Library Journal.

Richard Michelson and Raul Colon, *As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King, Jr., and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March toward Freedom* (2013) (YPB BIO M). “An eloquent tribute to two great men and their surprising alliance. Michelson explores the kinship between the African-American Baptist minister and a Polish-born rabbi who fled Nazi Germany to teach in America.” Grades 2-5. School Library Journal.

Abigail Yasgur and Joseph Lipner, *Max Said Yes!: The Woodstock Story* (2009) (YPB PEACE Y). The authors have spun a delightful rhyming tale that unites the efforts of music, diversity, a belief in coexistence and peace into a teaching tool for young students. The text also allows for a discussion of the historical importance of Woodstock with older students.”