BASIC JUDAISM READING LIST
Rabbi Billy Dreskin and Cantor Jonathan Gordon
Woodlands Community Temple
Revised, January 18, 2003

(R) Required reading: to be read & discussed with the Rabbi (or reviewed in writing).
(S) Suggested reading: if you are further interested in the topic.

OVERVIEW

(R) What is a Jew?, Kertzer, revised by Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman.
(R) To Life! A Celebration of Jewish Being and Thinking, Rabbi Harold Kushner (Little, Brown).
(R) The Nine Questions People Ask About Judaism, Dennis Prager & Rabbi Joseph Telushkin.
(S) Jewish Literacy: The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People, and Its History, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin.
(S) Basic Judaism, Rabbi Milton Steinberg.

THEOLOGY

(R) Finding God, Rabbis Rifat Sonsino & Daniel Syme.
(S) This is My God, Herman Wouk.
(S) The Healer of Shattered Hearts: A Jewish View of God, Rabbi David Wolpe.
(S) What Happens After I Die?, Rabbis Rifat Sonsino & Daniel Syme (UAHC).
(S) Teaching Your Child About God, Rabbi David Wolpe.

BIBLE & OTHER JEWISH TEXTS

(R) The Torah: A Modern Commentary, Rabbis W. Gunther Plaut & Bernard Bamberger (eds.) (UAHC). [Introductory materials to entire volume & for each section]
(R) Back to the Sources: Reading the Classic Jewish Texts, Barry Holtz.
(S) Reading the Book: Making the Bible a Timeless Text, Visotzky.

JEWSH PRACTICE

(R) The Jewish Home Advisor, Rabbi Alfred Kolatch (Jonathan David Publ.).
(R) The Jewish Home, Rabbi Daniel Syme (UAHC).

(S) A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice, Rabbi Isaac Klein (JTS). [This provides a detailed, halachic description of Jewish observance through the year]
(S) Every Person's Guide to Judaism, Einstein & Lydia Kukoff.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHABBAT</td>
<td>Gates of Shabbat: A Guide for Observing Shabbat</td>
<td>Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro</td>
<td>CCAR</td>
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<td>HOLIDAYS</td>
<td>The Jewish Home</td>
<td>Daniel B. Syme</td>
<td>UAHC Press</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOLIDAYS</td>
<td>The Art of Jewish Living: The Shabbat Seder</td>
<td>Wolfson</td>
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<td>HOLIDAYS</td>
<td>The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man</td>
<td>Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel</td>
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<td>PRAYER</td>
<td>When A Jew Prays</td>
<td>Seymour Rossel</td>
<td>Behrman House</td>
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<td>PRAYER</td>
<td>To Pray as a Jew</td>
<td>Donin</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONVERSION</td>
<td>Choosing Judaism</td>
<td>Lydia Kukoff</td>
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<td>CONVERSION</td>
<td>Video: &quot;Choosing Judaism.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONVERSION</td>
<td>Becoming Jewish: A Handbook for Conversion</td>
<td>Ronald Isaacs</td>
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<td>CONVERSION</td>
<td>Your People, My People</td>
<td>Romanoff</td>
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<td>CONVERSION</td>
<td>Mommy Never Went to Hebrew School</td>
<td>Portnoy</td>
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<td>JEWISH HISTORY</td>
<td>History chapters from Jewish Literacy</td>
<td>Rabbi Joseph Telushkin</td>
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<td>JEWISH HISTORY</td>
<td>Amazing Adventures of the Jewish People</td>
<td>Max Dimont</td>
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<td>JEWISH HISTORY</td>
<td>Jews, God and History</td>
<td>Max Dimont</td>
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<td>JEWISH HISTORY</td>
<td>Video: &quot;Heritage,&quot; Abba Eban (w/viewer's guide)</td>
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<td>JEWISH HISTORY</td>
<td>Video: &quot;Fiddler on the Roof.&quot;</td>
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<td>JEWISH HISTORY</td>
<td>Settings of Silver: An Introduction to Judaism</td>
<td>Wylen</td>
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ISRAEL
(R) The Source, James Michener.
(R) Video (5 parts): "Israel: A Nation is Born," Abba Eban.
(R) Video: "Exodus."
(S) The New Middle East, Shimon Peres.
(S) Heroes and Hustlers, Hardhats and Holymen: Inside the New Israel, Zev Chafets.
(S) Covenant People, Covenant Land, Seymour Rossel.

HOLOCAUST
(R) Night, Elie Wiesel.
(R) The World Must Know: The History of the Holocaust as Told in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Dr. Michael Berenbaum.
(R) Video: "Genocide."
(R) Why the Jews? The Reason for Antisemitism, Dennis Prager & Rabbi Joseph Telushkin (Simon & Schuster).
(S) The War Against the Jews, Lucy Dawidowicz.
(S) The Abandonment of the Jews, Wyman.

REFORM JUDAISM
(R) Explaining Reform Judaism, Rabbi Eugene Borowitz.
(S) Reform Judaism Today, Rabbi Eugene Borowitz.

PARENTING
(R) Raising Your Child to be a Mensch, Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
(S) The Hadassah Magazine Jewish Parenting Book, Bell (ed.).
(S) When Your Jewish Child Asks Why: Answers for Tough Questions, Rabbi Kerry Olitzky et. al.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
(R) Tough Choices: Jewish Perspectives on Social Justice, Albert Vorspan and Rabbi David Saperstein.

REFORM JEWISH PRAYERBOOKS
(R) Gates of Prayer, [Shabbat and holidays]
(R) Gates of Repentance, [High Holy Days]
(S) Gates of the House. [Home worship]
(S) Gates of Healing. [Prayers of comfort and hope]
(S) Gates of Awe. [High Holy Days for young children]
(S) Gates of Wonder. [Shabbat prayers for young children]

HEBREW

(S) Reading Hebrew, Castberg & Adler.
(S) Practice, Drill & Review for Reading, Adler.
(S) Teach Yourself to Read Hebrew, Simon & Anderson (Book & cassette tapes).
(S) Nashir B'yachad: Melodies for Shabbat Worship from "Gates of Song" (Cassette).

PERIODICALS

"Reform Judaism" [Monthly publication of the Reform movement].
"Moment" [Monthly publication of general Jewish community].

CATALOG MAILING LISTS

Jewish Books: Jonathan David Company
68-22 Eliot Avenue
Middle Village, NY 11379-1194
718-456-8611

Jewish Art: Hamakor Judaica, Inc.
P.O. Box 48836
Niles, IL 60714-0836
1-800-426-2567

Jewish Music: Sounds Write Productions, Inc.
6685 Norman Lane
San Diego, CA 92120
619-697-6120

WHERE TO PURCHASE BOOKS

J. Levine Books (5 West 30, NYC): 212-695-6888
Riverdale Hebrew Bookstore: 3706 Riverdale, Bronx
Jonathan David Publishers - (718) 456-8611 (Great sales!)