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To make a tax-deductible donation or inquire about supporting a program or a book publication, please contact JPS Director Rabbi Barry Schwartz at 215-832-0607 or bschwartz@jps.org or visit www.jps.org.

Prices shown are effective January 1, 2012, and are subject to change without notice.

Judaism's Great Debates

Timeless Controversies

from Abraham to Herzl

Rabbi Barry L. Schwartz

A survey of the great theological, spiritual, and political debates in Judaism

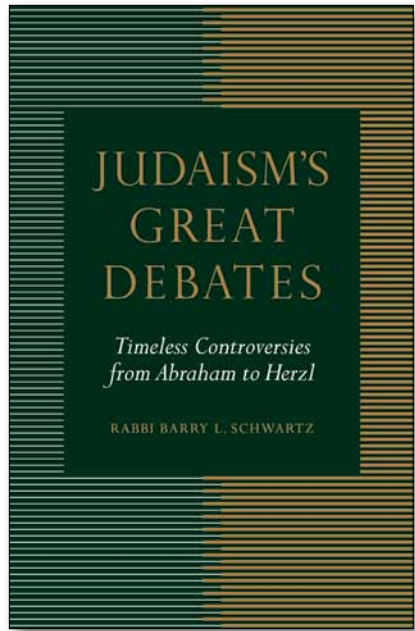
"A clear, concise introduction to some of the major confrontations in Jewish history, often leaving us thinking 'both sides are right.' Perfect for adult or teen study groups."—Rabbi Harold Kushner, author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*

Ever since Abraham's famous argument with God, Judaism has been full of debate. Moses and Korah, David and Nathan, Hillel and Shammai, the Vilna Gaon and the Ba'al Shem Tov, Spinoza and the Amsterdam Rabbis. . . the list goes on. Jews debate justice, authority, inclusion, spirituality, resistance, evolution, Zionism, and more. No wonder that Judaism cherishes the expression *machloket l'shem shamayim*, "an argument for the sake of heaven."

In this concise but important survey, Rabbi Barry L. Schwartz presents the provocative and vibrant thesis that debate and disputation are not only encouraged within Judaism but reside at the very heart of Jewish history and theology. In his graceful, engaging, and creative prose, Schwartz presents an introduction to an intellectual history of Judaism through the art of argumentation.

Beyond their historical importance, what makes these disputations so compelling is that nearly all of them, regardless of their epochs, are still being argued. Schwartz builds the case that the basis of Judaism is a series of unresolved rather than resolved arguments.

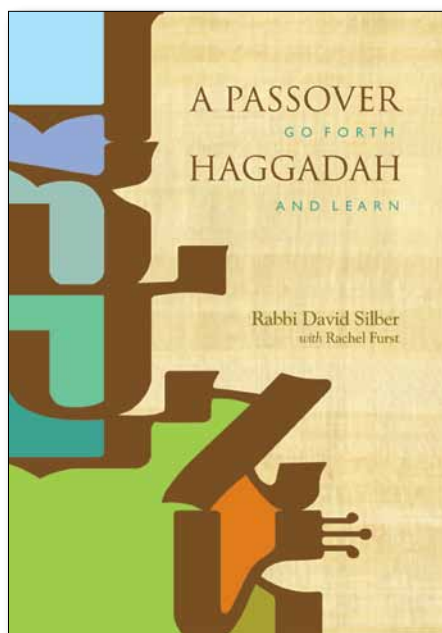
Drawing on primary sources, and with a bit of poetic license, Schwartz reconstructs the real or imagined dialogue of ten great debates and then analyzes their significance and legacy. This parade of characters spanning three millennia of biblical, rabbinic, and modern disputation reflects the panorama of Jewish history with its monumental political, ethical, and spiritual challenges.



Rabbi Barry L. Schwartz is the director of The Jewish Publication Society in Philadelphia and the spiritual leader of Congregation Adas Emuno in Leonia, New Jersey. He is the author of the acclaimed textbook, *Jewish Heroes, Jewish Values* and several other works. *Judaism's Great Debates* is also being published in a student edition by Behrman House, Inc.

July 2012 • 112 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
\$15.95 paperback • 978-0-8276-1131-3
 \$16.95 Canadian/£9.99 UK

Thanks to these generous donors for making the publication of this book possible: David Lerman and Shelley Wallock; D. Walter Cohen; Wendy and Leonard Cooper; Rabbi Howard Gorin; Gittel and Alan Hilibrand; Marjorie and Jeffrey Major; Jeanette Lerman Neubauer and Joe Neubauer; and Harriet and Donald Young.



Rabbi David Silber is the founder and dean of Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, New York City. A popular, nationally known lecturer on Bible, Silber is a recipient of the prestigious Covenant Award, for excellence in innovative Jewish education.

232 pp. • 7 x 10
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A Passover Haggadah

Go Forth and Learn

Rabbi David Silber with Rachel Furst

Hebrew and English text with new commentary and essays

“For those with a serious Jewish background, or serious intellectual curiosity, [*A Passover Haggadah*] is a goldmine.”—Jay Michaelson, *The Forward*

“This Haggadah is groundbreaking in its presentation of new, creative, peshat-based approaches to the traditional text of the Seder.”
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“Rabbi Silber’s midrashic method is deeply knowledgeable but never freighted with excessive reference. . . . This is a haggadah to study, slowly turning over the literary links that allow one part of the *TANAKH* to talk to another.”
—*Jewish Book World*

“Under the expert and artistic hand of Rabbi Silber, *A Passover Haggadah* yields meanings beyond what even the informed reader imagines. The commentary, like the haggadah itself, is gripping on the first reading, and even more rewarding on subsequent ones.”—Rabbi David Wolpe, Sinai Temple, Los Angeles, and author of *Why Faith Matters*

Rabbi Silber has given us two books in one: the Haggadah itself, in English and Hebrew, with his seder commentary and a collection of essays that provide close readings of the classic biblical and rabbinic texts that inform Seder-night ritual and narration. Both parts work beautifully together to illuminate the central themes of Passover: peoplehood, Covenant, our relationship to ritual, God’s presence in history, and other important issues that resonate with us all.

Just as *midrash* attempts to bridge the gap between ancient text and contemporary meaning, Rabbi Silber’s Haggadah provides new sources of insight that deepen the Passover experience for today’s readers.

The JPS Bible Commentary: Ruth

Tamara Cohn Eskenazi
and Tikva Frymer-Kensky

**2011 National Jewish Book Award Winner,
Barbara Dobkin Award in Women's Studies**

The moving story of Ruth, with its themes of loyalty, loving kindness (*hesed*), and redemption, is one of the great narratives of the Bible.

Socially, the Israelites were aware of their responsibility to protect the weak and unprotected among them. Redemption secures the life of the people as a community, not just as individuals. In this story, Boaz fills the familial obligation to marry the widow of a deceased relative who never was able to father children, both to continue the family line and protect an otherwise vulnerable woman.

The authors provide a critical, line-by-line commentary of the biblical text, presented in its original Hebrew, complete with vocalization and cantillation marks, as well as the 1985 JPS English translation. The extensive introduction places the book within its historical, literary, and critical context, discusses contemporary interpretations of the story of Ruth, and examines its major motifs and themes, among them: family, marriage and levirate marriage in biblical and ancient Israel, redemption and inheritance, *hesed*, and the book's connection with the Jewish holiday of Shavuot.

Tamara Cohn Eskenazi is professor of Bible at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. She is the first woman appointed as professor to the rabbinical faculty in HUC-JIR's long history. Earlier she had been on the faculty of the University of Denver, directed the Institute of Interfaith Studies, and co-founded the Jewish Women Resource Center in Denver.

Eskenazi is the chief editor of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*, the winner of the 2008 Jewish Book of the Year Award presented by the Jewish Book Council. She has served on the executive committee of the Society of Biblical Literature, and her numerous published articles include: *In an Age of Prose: A Literary Approach to Ezra-Nehemiah* (1988) and *Second Temple Studies 2: Temple and Community in the Persian Period* (1994). An expert in postexilic history and literature and in the Bible, Dr. Eskenazi has presented papers national and international at scholarly conferences.



Tikva Frymer-Kensky z"l was a professor of Hebrew Bible and the History of Judaism at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Her areas of specialization included Assyriology and Sumerology, biblical studies, Jewish studies, and women and religion. She was the author of *Reading the Women of the Bible* (which received a Koret Jewish Book Award in 2002 and a National Jewish Book Award in 2003), *In the Wake of the Goddesses*, and *Motherprayer*.

216 pp. • 8 x 10

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Thanks to these generous donors for making the publication of this book possible: Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Deutsch.

Folktales of the Jews, Volume 3

Tales from Arab Lands

Edited by Dan Ben-Amos

Dov Noy, Consulting Editor

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“For anyone who wants an introduction to what the Diaspora really means, hand them any volume in this masterful collection. . . . Each tale has a life of its own, lit from within, and each piece of commentary and footnote records a story of telling stories, human, lively, deep. . . . We are indebted to JPS for publishing this astonishing collection.”—Roger Abraham, PhD

Tales from Arab Lands presents tales from North Africa, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq in the latest volume of the most important collection of Jewish folktales ever published. This is the third book in the multi-volume series in the tradition of Louis Ginzberg’s timeless classic, *Legends of the Jews*.

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About the Series

Since the creation of the State of Israel, the Israel Folktale Archives (IFA) at the University of Haifa, Israel, named in honor of Dov Noy, has collected more than 20,000 tales from newly arrived immigrants, long-lost stories shared by their families from around the world.

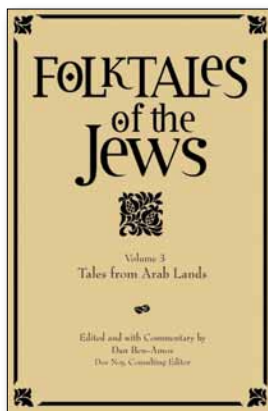
Until the establishment of the IFA, there was only limited access to the wide range of Jewish folk narratives. Many of these communities no longer exist as cohesive societies in their representative lands. These volumes, and the others to come, will be monuments to a rich but vanishing oral tradition.

Each tale is accompanied by in-depth commentary explaining the tale’s cultural, historical, and literary background and its similarity to other tales in the IFA collection, as well as extensive scholarly notes. Volumes also include an introduction to the specific culture and its folk narrative tradition, a world map of the areas covered, illustrations, biographies of the collectors and narrators, tale type and motif indexes, a subject index, and a comprehensive biography. This series is a monument to a rich but vanishing oral tradition.

Dan Ben-Amos is professor of folklore at the University of Pennsylvania and the senior editor of *Mimekor Yisrael: Folktales of Israel*.

Dov Noy was the Max and Margarethe Grunwald Professor of Hebrew Literature at the Hebrew University, the director of the Hebrew University Folklore Center, a professor of Yiddish folklore at Bar-Ilan University, the 1988 recipient of the Jerusalem Prize, and the founder of the Israel Folktale Archives.

Thanks to these generous donors for making the publication of these books possible: Lloyd E. Cotsen; The Maurice Amado Foundation; National Endowment for the Humanities; and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.



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Modern Lessons from the Wisdom and Stories of Biblical Women
Vanessa L. Ochs

Inspiring role models for today's woman

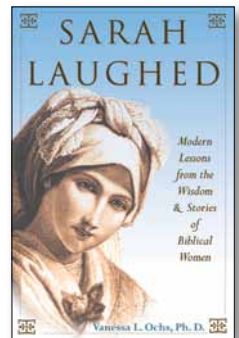
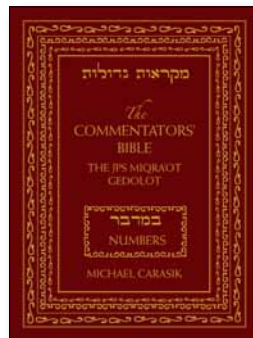
"Ochs offers readers a rare treat—fine scholarship combined with inspirational connections to life in the modern world."—*Jewish Book World*

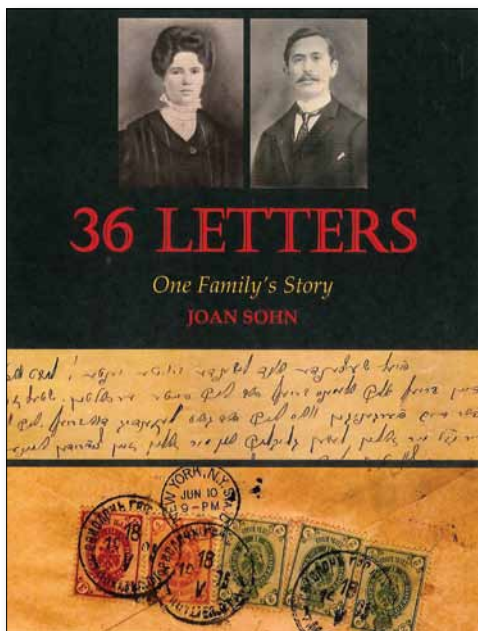
In this vivid collection, Judaic scholar Ochs brings the legends of the biblical matriarchs to new life. Intimate, familiar, and wise, the heroines in *Sarah Laughed* are revealed to be inspiring role models for women today. From Eve's rebellious taste of wisdom to the righteous anger of Job's wife, each woman's story is retold in imaginative prose and accompanied by real-life rituals that can help us gain insight into:

- Finding inner wisdom
- Speaking the true self
- Being a good friend
- Maintaining romantic partnership
- Raising a family

Vanessa Ochs is the Isa and Nathan Kolodiz Director of Jewish Studies at the University of Virginia and the 2007 National Jewish Book Award winning author of *Inventing Jewish Ritual*.

250 pp. • 6 x 9
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Joan Sohn grew up in Philadelphia and still has strong family ties there, but she has called Toronto her home for 35 years. Active in her community, she is on The National Board of Canadian Friends of the Israel Museum. Sohn, who received a degree in graphic design from Carnegie-Mellon University and studied at Ontario College of Art, turns her art expertise into visual stories in *36 Letters*.

120 pp. • 8 1/2 x 11 • 125 photographs, maps, and illustrations

\$18.00 paperback • 978-0-8276-0926-6
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36 Letters

One Family's Story

Joan Sohn

An American success saga

"A powerful portrait of the immigrant Jewish experience itself, and the journey of European Jewry to America. . . . The 36 letters themselves will transport you to other times and places. Bravo! This book is a gift! Read more."—Arthur Kurzweil, author of *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History* and *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy*

"A profoundly poignant memoir, rich in personal photographs, letters, documents, and riveting quotes."—Rabbi Simcha Weinstein, chair of the Religious Affairs Committee at Pratt Institute, New York

"One hundred years from now, it is unlikely that a similar book to Sohn's will be published about an engaged couple's cryptic emails and tweets, cell phone conversations and texting. Sohn's book reminds us that letters are not just a link, but a lasting connection."—*The Forward*

Joan Sohn found her grandparents' 36 letters, tucked away for 65 years in a small brown paper bag. When she read them, her family's story came alive. Of course, there were missing pieces—many of them; and so she began a long labor of love, filling in the gaps.

Thanks to those letters and Sohn's determination, we have that story—about people who left their homes for a new start and never returned. They reinvented themselves; they changed their citizenship, their language, their customs, and even their names.

36 Letters is about separation, personal struggle, and achievement. It's about people who landed at Ellis Island and made their way, somehow, to New York's Lower East Side, and then to Philadelphia, where they grew and multiplied and made remarkable contributions to the city's development. The letters are accompanied by more than 100 stunning photographs, maps, and illustrations.

Pirke Avot*Timeless Wisdom for Modern Life*

William Berkson

Translation with Menachem Fisch

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"I have collected scores of commentaries on *Pirke Avot* over the years, and I find this to be one of the best—for its broad outlook, its combination of Jewish and secular thought, and for its inspiring application to modern life."—*Jewish Media Review*

In this new edition of the well-known Jewish classic, Berkson helps us see that *Pirke Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers) is more than just a fundamental religious text; it is also a compelling, contemporary ethical guide.

Berkson looks at the individual sayings, or *mishnayot*, through the interpretations of the great Jewish commentators and also within the broader context of Western thought—through views found in the Bible, the ancient Greeks, the Enlightenment, Buddhism, Confucianism, and American culture today.

The book's most important and innovative feature is its exploration of the relationship between the beliefs of the ancient Sages and modern psychology, particularly the key to good relationships: ethical conduct. The result is a book that goes far beyond the plain meaning of the sayings to explore their ethical, psychological, and religious significance for us today.

Included are an extensive index and the full text of *Pirke Avot* in English and Hebrew on facing pages.

240 pp. • 6 x 9

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Mesillat Yesharim*The Path of the Upright*

Moses Hayyim Luzzatto

Translated by Mordecai M. Kaplan

With a new introduction and commentary by Ira F. Stone

Connecting the wisdom of tradition with contemporary spirituality

Mesillat Yesharim is a classic of Jewish ethical literature. Written by one of the leading kabbalists of the late Middle Ages, it is also a window into the kabbalist's understanding of the connection between ethics and mystical vision.

This translation, published originally in 1936 by JPS, is a landmark in Jewish publishing. It made this Hebrew text finally available to English readers, and it gave us insights into the groundbreaking work that Kaplan did in orienting American Jews to the deep connection between ethical living and religious belief. This book has become the centerpiece of the modern-day Mussar Movement, which inspires so many on their spiritual path.

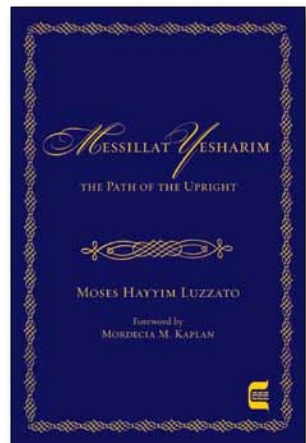
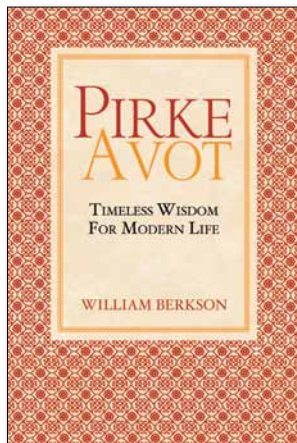
Rabbi Ira Stone, in his introduction, presents Luzzatto and *Mesillat Yesharim* in their historical context, and gives us new insights into Kaplan's emerging theology.

550 pp. • 6 x 9

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Jewish Choices, Jewish Voices Series

Edited by Elliot N. Dorff, Danya Ruttenberg,
and Louis E. Newman

“The emphasis on questions, not answers, makes the *Jewish Choices, Jewish Voices* series different from many other ethical works . . . It is an excellent resource for readers seeking to lead more ethical lives.”—*The Reporter*

These volumes bring together a diverse group of Jews to answer some of today’s toughest ethical questions. Provocative case studies and varied responses challenge readers and entice them to join in on the conversation.

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Is it OK to be wealthy? How do we know when we have too much? Enough? How much are we supposed to give to charity?

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What are our obligations and rights to our own bodies? What does Judaism say about tattoos? Piercings? Who owns our organs? Why do so many young Jews suffer from eating disorders?

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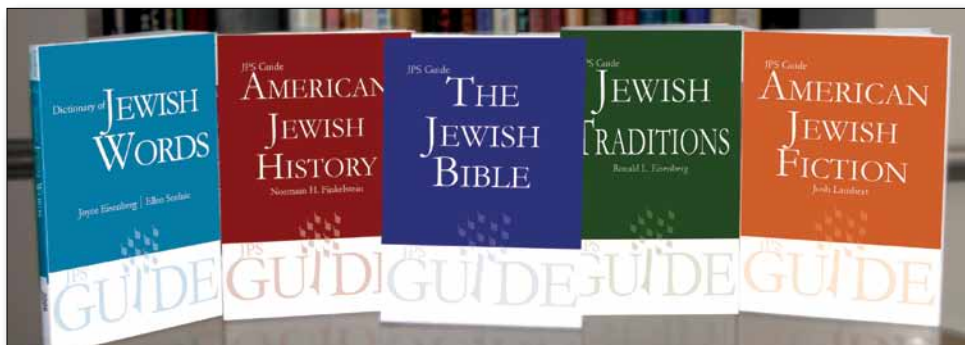
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Elliot N. Dorff, coeditor of all volumes in the series, is rector and Sol and Anne Dorff Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the American Jewish University. He has written 12 books, including three award-winning titles on Jewish ethics. Since 1984, Dorff has served on the Rabbinical Assembly’s Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, currently as its chair.

Danya Ruttenberg, coeditor of the *Sex and Intimacy*, *War and National Security*, and *Social Justice* volumes, is the author and editor of various books as well as a contributing editor to *Lilith* and *Women and Judaism*. She received her rabbinic ordination from the American Jewish University and is the Senior Jewish Educator at Tufts University.

Louis E. Newman, co-editor of the *Power*, *Body*, and *Money* volumes is the John M. and Elizabeth W. Musser Professor of Religious Studies and the director of Judaic Studies at Carleton College, and the author of *Past Imperatives: Studies in the History and Theory of Jewish Ethics*.

Thanks to these generous donors for making the publication of these books possible: The Everett Foundation, The Ben and Eather Rosenbloom Foundation, Aubrey and Sylvia Farb, Brenda Liebowitz and Aaron Feingold.



Dictionary of Jewish Words

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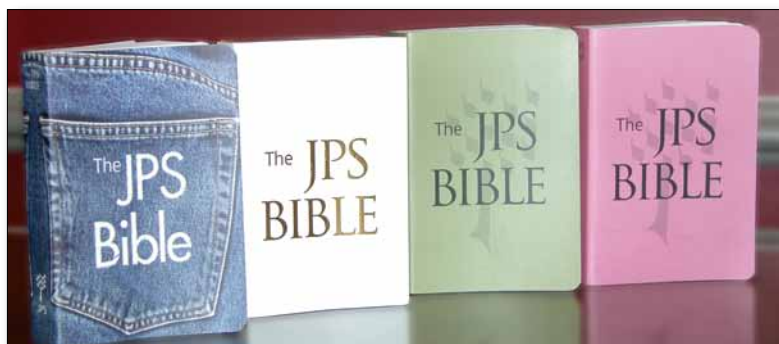
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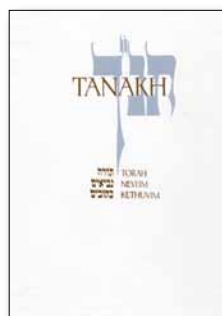
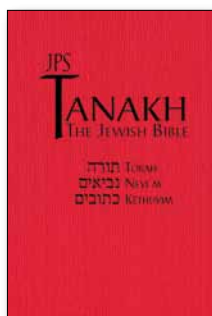
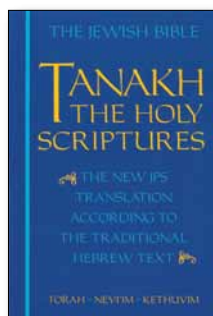
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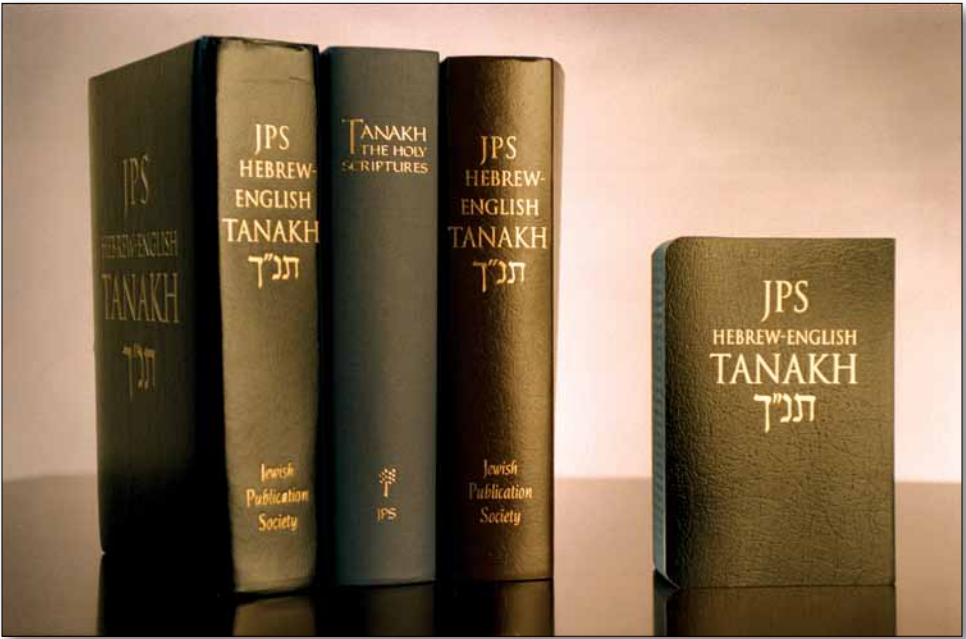
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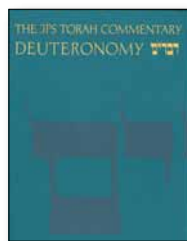
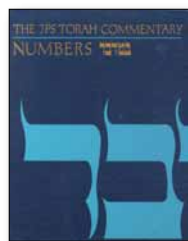
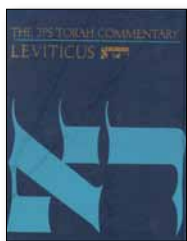
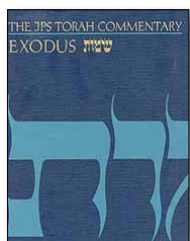
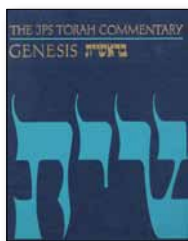
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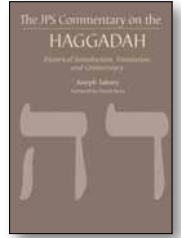
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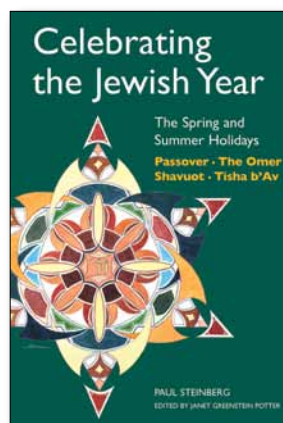
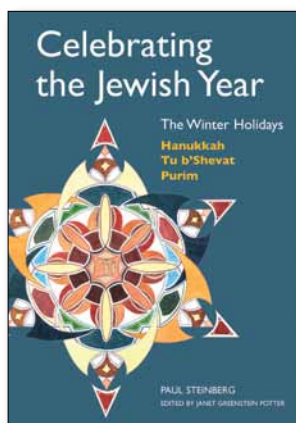
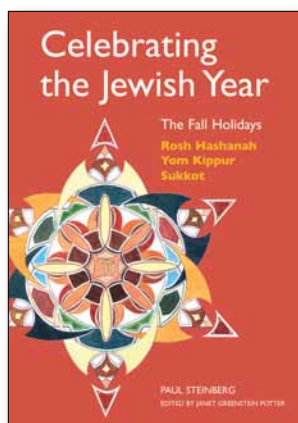
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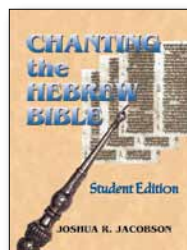
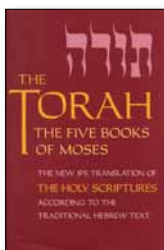
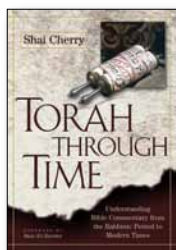
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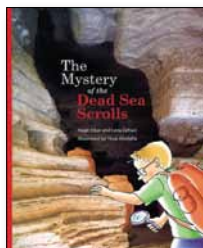
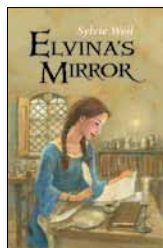
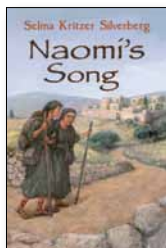
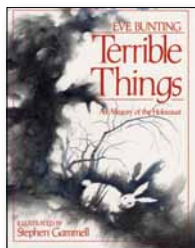
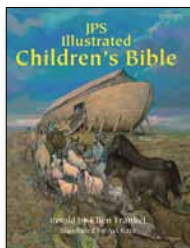
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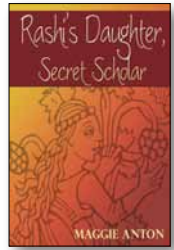
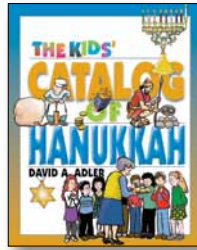
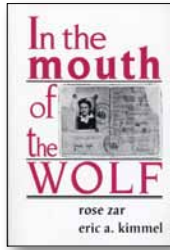
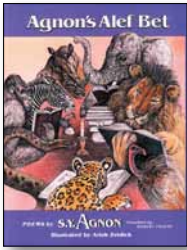
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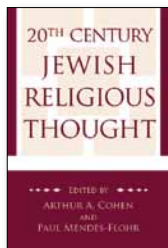
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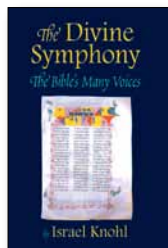
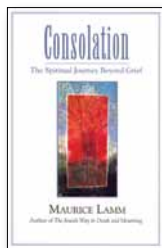
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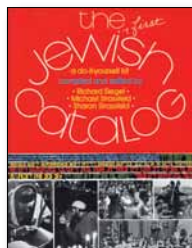
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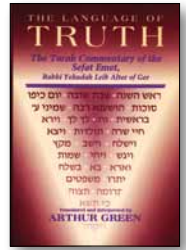
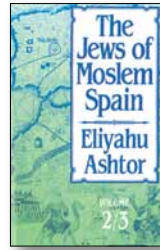
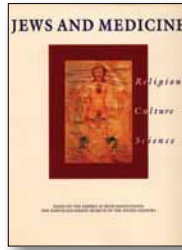
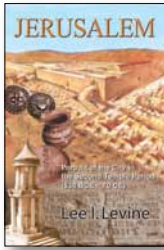
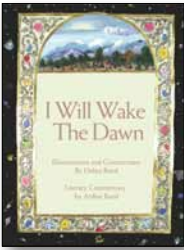
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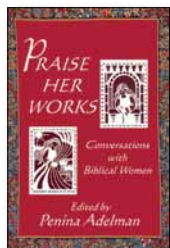
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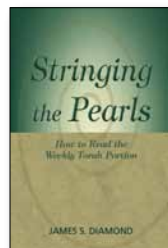
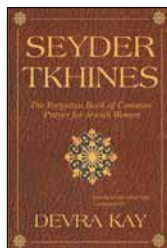
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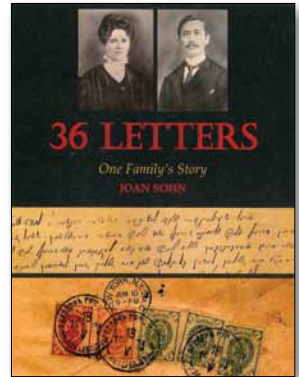
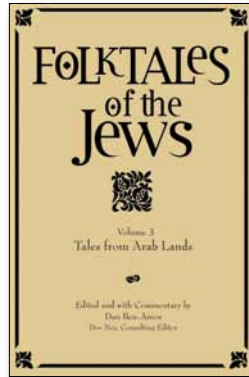
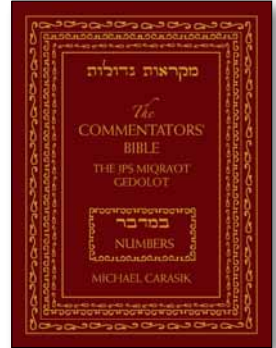
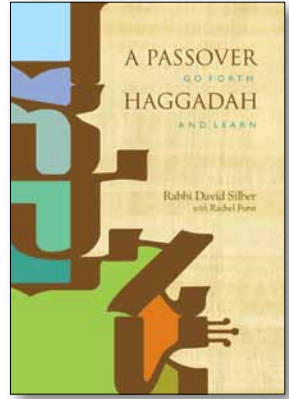
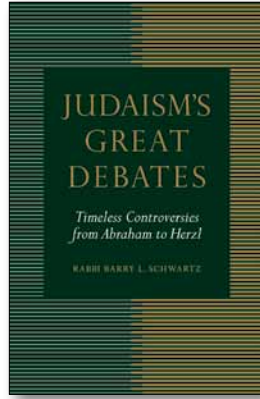
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