

Resource List

This annotated resource list was compiled from sources on the Jeff Herman Virtual Resource Center (JHVRC). The JHVRC is a web-based educational environment for all those interested in learning about Judaism, Sexual Orientation and Gender. It is a project of the Institute for Judaism and Sexual Orientation (IJSO) and the National Department of Distance Education at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

The JHVRC also contains hundreds of links to websites on the intersection of Judaism and LGBT topics as well as general LGBT information sites. They are not included here as web resources and addresses change faster than print material so it is best to access them live.

This bibliography is separated into categories of books that relate to:

- Experiences and issues around the intersection of Judaism and LGBT
- Israel and LGBT topics,
- LGBT parents, kids, and families and their heterosexual parents, kids and families
- Gay Holocaust literature.

Jewish and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender (GLBT) Sources

Beyond Breaking the Glass: A Spiritual Guide to Your Jewish Wedding

A book that includes guidance for same-gender couples planning weddings. Rabbi Wiener explains Reform Judaism's approach to wedding customs and preparations, offers practical information about ceremonies, and provides contemporary, gender-inclusive prayers and rituals.

Author: Rabbi Nancy H. Wiener; Central Conference of American Rabbis; 2001.

Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out

An anthology of stories from bisexuals who tell their stories of acceptance and understanding from a perspective that helps the reader better relate to the spirit and essence of what it is like to have affections for multiple genders. Many of the stories reflect hardship in coming to terms with bisexuality, and rejection from both the heterosexual and gay communities. Stories written by Jewish bisexuals in the anthology include Rebecca Gorlin and David Lourea.

Editors: Loraine Hutchins and Lani Kaahumanu; Alyson Books; 1991.

Bisexual Politics: Theories, Queries, and Visions

This book contains 35 essays, interviews, and poems that explore the history, strategies, and theory of bisexual political activism in the US. They discuss the movement's beginning in the 1970s and its current state, sexuality, coalition building, visions for the future, and the radical right. There are several Jewish-related chapters in the book including "If Half of You Dodges a Bullet, All of You Ends Up Dead".

Editor: Naomi S Tucker; Harrington Park Press; 1995.

Blessed Bi Spirit: Bisexual People of Faith

Over 30 contributors from a variety of religious traditions and spiritual paths - including Buddhist, Hindu, Pagan, 12-step, Christian and Jewish - speak about the intersections of their faith practice and their bisexuality.

Editor: Debra R. Kolodny; Continuum Publishers; 2000.

Confessions of a Jewish Wagnerite: Being Gay and Jewish in America

A collection of autobiographical essays, the book looks at "the interconnectedness of gay, Jewish and musical cultures in post-World War II America, against a backdrop of resurgent anti-Semitism." Mass comes to terms with his internalized anti-Semitism and gay identity through his friendship with the great-grandson of the composer, Richard Wagner, and his life-partnership with a fellow gay activist and Jewish-American writer.

Author: Lawrence D. Mass; Cassell Academic; 1999.

Contemporary Debates in American Reform Judaism: Conflicting Visions

A collection of essays that explore a range of issues and questions currently confronting American Reform Judaism. Rabbi Denise L. Eger contributed "Embracing Lesbians and Gay Men: A Reform Jewish Innovation," which traces the evolution of the Reform Movement's inclusion of gay men and lesbians. Hinda Seif also has a chapter entitled "Where Kosher Means Organic and Union Label': Bisexual Women Re-embrace Their Jewish Heritage".

Editor: Dana Evan Kaplan; Routledge; 2001.

Dancing on Tisha B'Av

A collection of 19 stories that probe the challenges of being gay and Jewish. The author explores the experiences of concentration camp survivor parents and their gay children, a sister admiring her brother's devotion to Orthodoxy and then understanding his struggle to accept his gay identity, and other characters striving to reconcile seemingly mutually exclusive feelings, desires and values.

Author: Lev Raphael; St. Martin's Griffin; 1991.

Found Tribe: Jewish Coming Out Stories

This book contains 17 personal essays by well known Jewish personalities who reflect, in a kind of 'midrash' on sex and sexuality, finding a sense of community within Jewish life, defining in their own words and by their own actions what it is like to be both gay and Jewish in contemporary times. Contains essays by David Bergman, Gabriel Blau, David Ian Cavill, Edward M. Cohen, Rabbi Steve Greenberg, Daniel M. Jaffe, Arnie Kantrowitz, Gabriel Lampert, Andrew Martin, Jesse G. Monteagudo, Julian Padilla, Lev Raphael, Andrew Ramer, Phillip Ritari, David Rosen, Lawrence Schimel, and Jonathan Wald.

Editor: Lawrence Schimel; Sherman Asher Publishing; 2002.

Friends & Families: True Stories of Gay America's Straight Allies

This book is a compilation of profiles of people from many walks of life who all share a common theme: being proactively supportive of GBLT issues. Each story is interesting in and of itself, although there are two that are of particular interest to Jewish readers: Every Day the Rabbi Helps Gays (David Horowitz) found on pages 43-50. The Holocaust Still Haunts Her (Roxanne Pappenheimer), found on pages 291-296.

Editor: Dan Woog; Alyson Books; 1999.

A Gay Synagogue in New York

This book speaks to the heart of organizing from scratch, what is now the largest Gay & Lesbian synagogue in the United States. There were many trials and tribulations; as well as small rewards along the way. It is a great way to see the inner workings of establishing a temple, and to learn how the visions of the founders made it into the final congregation.

Author: Moshe Shokeid; University of Pennsylvania Press; 2002.

The Gender Frontier

Photographer Mariette Pathy Allen captures a remarkable range of frontier genders including a transsexual cop, a Stonewall veteran, genderfluid NYU students, Capitol Hill lobbyists, scientists, intersex activists, icons and factory workers. Allen has been questioning the 'mysterious essence' of human existence for over two decades and using her camera to offer the multiple replies to those questions.

Photographer: Mariette Pathy Allen; Kehrer Verlag; 2003.

Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World

This book is a compilation of stories and individual experiences of bisexuals from around the world. It includes a story by Jonathan Daniel Hoffman, a graduate student at Hebrew University in Jerusalem (page 190). Jonathan has formed a group in Israel called BIS (Bisexuals in Israel) to bring the Bi agenda to the GLBT and heterosexual communities. See also the poem by Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhran (p 95). Has a great bi bibliography.

Editors: Robyn Ochs & Sarah E. Rowley; Bisexual Resource Center; 2005.

Half & Half

A collection of 18 essays, edited by Claudine Chaiwei O'Hearn, recounts the life stories and musings of individuals who grew up not only biracial but bicultural as well. Their life stories are also about adjusting to life in the American landscape (which can sometimes be insensitive to or obsessed with race and identity). Of interest to Jewish readers is the story: 'What Color is Jesus', by James McBride. Both his biological father and step-father were African-American while his mother is a Polish Jew, the eldest daughter of an Orthodox rabbi.

Editor: Claudine Chaiwei O'Hearn; Pantheon; 1998.

Homosexuality and Judaism: A Reconstructionist Workshop Series

A compilation of eight Workshops designed for use by congregations or small groups to study the issue of inclusivity and becoming a Welcoming Community. Includes extensive references to Biblical sources. This resource is only available from the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation at <http://www.jrf.org/pub/cat-papers.html>.

Editor: Rabbi Robert Gluck; Jewish Reconstructionist Federation; 1993.

Journeys & Departures: On Being Gay and Jewish

Prize-winning author Lev Raphael ("Dancing on Tisha B'Av") writes for the first time in non-fiction form about the themes of Gay and Jewish identity that permeate his work. Himself the child of Holocaust survivors, this gives him a unique perspective and is the subject for one of his chapters, Empty Memory? Gays in Holocaust Literature".

Author: Lev Raphael; Faber & Faber; 1996.

Lesbian Rabbis: The First Generation

A collection of thoughtful essays by 18 groundbreaking rabbis from the Reform, Reconstructionist and Conservative movements.

Editors: Rebecca T. Alpert, Sue Levi Elwell and Shirley Idelson; Rutgers University Press; 2001.

Like an Orange on a Seder Plate: Our Lesbian Haggadah

This haggadah is lesbian-centered and woman oriented.

Author: Dr. Ruth Simkin; Hignell Book Printing; 1999.

Like Bread on the Seder Plate: Jewish Lesbians and the Transformation of Tradition

Both feminist and Lesbian, Rabbi Rebecca Alpert demonstrates that the Jewish faith is constantly evolving and therefore transformational. The book received the 1998 Lambda Literary Award, spirituality/religion category, the 1999 Award for Scholarship, from Jewish Women's Caucus of the Association for Women in Psychology; Jewish Women's Caucus of the Association for Women in Psychology's Award for Scholarship.

Author: Rebecca T. Alpert; Columbia University Press; 1997.

Mentsh: On Being Jewish and Queer

Over 30 queer Jewish contributors from around the world (including Israel, Serbia, and Australia) reveal their surprising, poignant, sometimes hilarious experiences in ways that offer a staggering perspective on issues of identity, institutions and culture from the viewpoint of the queer outsider struggling to belong.

Editor: Angela Brown; Alyson Books; 2004.

Nice Jewish Girls: A Lesbian Anthology

Collection of essays, stories poetry and photographs about women's experiences straddling the Jewish and lesbian worlds. Includes pieces on mother-daughter relations, Israel, and anti-Semitism in the lesbian community.

Editor: Eveyln Torton Beck; Beacon Press; 1989 (currently out of print but available from third party sellers on Amazon.com).

Passing (When People Can't Be Who They Are)

These are stories about people who "pass", black for white, gay for straight and in other ways. Two stories relate to gay and lesbians passing for straight. One is about a gay, conservative seminarian ('Leviticus 18:22' on page 93) and the other, a lesbian naval officer. There is also an interesting story about a straight, Latina Jew-by-choice.

Author: Brooke Kroeger; Perseus Publishing; 2004.

Queer Jews

A collection of essays written by Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Jews, exploring, "the conflict between the desire to integrate into established Jewish communities, changing them from within and the comforts of creating and maintaining 'separate' spaces for queer Jews."

Editor: David Shneer and Caryn Aviv; Routledge Press; 2002.

Queer Theory and the Jewish Question

The construction of Jewish and queer identities are "bound up with one another in resonant ways," even extending to modern discourses of anti-Semitism and homophobia, according to the editors. They present 17 essays approaching the topic from the field of cultural studies. Topics include the way gender is represented by the Jewish character played by Barbara Streisand in the film "Funny Girl," and the sexualized aspects of Chaucer's portrayal of "the vicious murder of a saintly Christian child by perverse Jews" in the Canterbury Tales."

Editors: Daniel Boyarin, Daniel Itzkovitz, and Ann Pellegrini; Columbia University Press; 2003.

Recognizing Ourselves: Ceremonies of Lesbian and Gay Commitment

The book was written by an anthropologist whose own commitment ceremony at Congregation Shaar Zahav in San Francisco in 1992. The book looks at the personal, ritual, ethical and religious factors that lead same gender couples to undertake public recognition of their relationships and how they embrace that recognition. Several Jewish wedding ritual adaptations and additions are included in the book.

Author: Ellen Lewin; Columbia Press; 1998.

Twice Blessed: On Being Lesbian or Gay and Jewish

Ground-breaking book that includes essays by Rebecca Alpert, Martha Ackelsberg, Eric Rofes, Judith Plaskow, Sue Levi Elwell, and many others. The original collection of Jewish lesbian and gay life. Articles and essays cover personal reflections as well as information about this community.

Editors: Christie Balka and Andy Rose; Beacon Press; 1989.

An Underground Life: Memoirs of a Gay Jew in Nazi Berlin

Gad Beck was born to a dual faith couple in Weimar, Germany. He recounts gay life in Berlin prior to the rise to power of the Nazis and after, of his efforts to save gay friends and Jews from concentration and deportation camps, by forging documents, hiding people, even in one case by donning a Hitler youth uniform to deceive the Gestapo to attempt to help his lover escape deportation. There is also an online exhibit of his war time diary produced by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum at:

<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/doyourememberwhen//co/co.htm>

Author: Gad Beck; University of Wisconsin Press; 2000.

The Wedding: A Family's Coming Out Story

This the true story told in four voices (two grooms and the parents of one of them) of how a Jewish family in Montreal takes on the upcoming wedding of their Jewish son, living in New York. Initially, there is shock and then a slow process of coming to terms with all that is involved in having a gay son and accepting gay marriage.

Authors: Douglas Wythe, Andrew Merling, Roslyn Merling and Sheldon Merling; Avon Books; 2000.

Wrestling with God and Men

This book is of Rabbi Greenberg's ten-year struggle to reconcile his homosexuality with Orthodox Judaism. Employing traditional rabbinic resources, Greenberg presents readers with surprising biblical interpretations of the creation story, the love of David and Jonathan, the destruction of Sodom, and the condemning verses of Leviticus. In so doing, he draws on a wide array of nonscriptural texts to introduce readers to occasions of same-sex love in Talmudic narratives, medieval Jewish poetry and prose, and traditional Jewish case law literature.

Author: Steven Greenberg; University of Wisconsin Press; 2005.

Yentl's Revenge: The Next Wave of Jewish Feminism

Includes Jewish Transgender issues.

Editors: Susannah Heschel and Danya Ruttenberg; Seal Press; 2001.

GLBT Issues in Israel

Between Sodom and Eden: A Gay Journey Through Today's Changing Israel

Based on interviews with over one hundred Israelis, as well as Palestinians. Lee Walzer explores how, within a decade, Israel evolved from a society that marginalized homosexuals to one that offers some of the most extensive legal protections in the world. Examining the interplay between Judaism and homosexuality, he traces the political, religious, and social factors that make Israel a gay rights trendsetter.

Author: Lee Walzer; Columbia University Press; 2000.

Exile in the Promised Land: A Memoir

A first-person account of the experiences of Marcia Freedman, a U.S.-born feminist who became a founding member of Israel's women's movement, a member of the Knesset and came out as a lesbian to her husband and young daughter after 13 years of marriage.

Making aliyah in 1967, Freedman returned to the U.S. in 1981, convinced her lesbianism and peace activism could not be tolerated in Israel.

Author: Marcia Freedman; Firebrand Books; 1990.

Independence Park: The Lives of Gay Men in Israel (Contraversions: Jews and Other Differences)

Independence Park, Tel Aviv and Independence Park, in Jerusalem are well-known meeting places for gay men in Israel. The book also pick up independence as the theme of the collection of narratives told by twelve gay men from a cross-section of contemporary Israeli society. The speakers are Jewish and Arab, ranging in age from 22 to 72 and speak about their family backgrounds and early childhood memories including their first stirrings of sexuality and responses to those feelings.

Editors: Jacob Press and Amir Sumakai Fink; Stanford University Press; 1999.

Lesbiot: Israeli Lesbians Talk About Sexuality, Feminism, Judaism and Their Lives

A collection of essays/interviews with 21 Israeli lesbians who share their family histories, personal biographies, reflections on the lesbian experience, and opinions on political and social issues. The book is out of print but used copies still are available on Amazon.com through third party sellers.

Editor: Tracy Moore; Cassell; 1999

Family Issues – GLBT and Straight Parents and Children

Always My Child: a Parent's Guide to Understanding Your Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered or Questioning Son or Daughter

This guide will help parents navigate the challenges of connecting with a GLBTQ child and becoming an integral and supportive part of that child's life. The book is especially notable for its chapters on transgender issues and multicultural issues. There is also a chapter on youth questioning their sexuality (straight and gay and in-between), and how parents can be supportive in that as well.

Author: Kevin Jennings and Pat Shapiro; Fireside; 2003.

Families of Value: Personal Profiles of Pioneering Lesbian and Gay Parents

This book is a collection of short stories of real families telling of gay parents' struggles to raise their children in a society that is often hostile to their lifestyle. The stories compiled range from a gay Protestant minister to two lesbian police officers hoping to extend death benefits to each other.

Author: Robert A. Bernstein; Marlowe & Company; 2005.

How it Feels to Have a Gay or Lesbian Parent

This paperback book is written by kids for kids. It reflects the "thoughts, feelings, and experiences of children, adolescents, and young adults who have a gay or lesbian parent." They openly discuss what it is like to learn of their parents' sexual orientation and the impact this has at home, school, with friends and other family members. Issues such as homophobia, discrimination, shame and struggle in coping with being different are common themes and each kid has a different important and valuable story to tell.

Author: Judith Snow; Harrington Park Press; 2004.

The Family Flamboyant - Race Politics, Queer Families, Jewish Lives

Through personal accounts as well as political analysis, the author examines how families form affected by relation to race, gender, sexuality and one shaped by a Jewish lens.

Author: Marla Brettschneider; SUNY Press; 2006

Lessons from the Intersexed

This is a cutting edge and radical book on gender and the experiences of intersex people. Well researched with extensive resource material.

Author: Susanne Kessler; Rutgers University Press; 1998.

Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Parents

A collection of essays edited by Noelle Howey and Ellen Samuels, which talks from the heart about the experience of growing up with Gay, Lesbian and Transsexual parents. Some of the stories are easy to relate to while others are a bit unusual (such as those with transgender parents) and really make us think hard about what it means to be an inclusive family. There is one chapter, Rites of Passage, by Daniel Belasco, A Jewish teenager talks about his Lesbian mom, her partner, a Rabbi, and how they all integrated into Jewish society at large and within their own family.

Editors: Noelle Howey, Ellen Samuels; St. Martin's Press; 2000.

Side by Side: On Having a Gay or Lesbian Sibling

A compilation of stories written by siblings who have a Gay or Lesbian brother or sister, and how this has impacted their lives. This book is an easy and enjoyable read, offering insight; from shock and denial; to acceptance, support and understanding. Many of the stories are quite touching and show the special relationships that often evolve out of the heartfelt emotions that involve the difficult coming out process. It has been suggested that this is an excellent book for classroom discussion.

Editor: Andrew R. Gottlieb, PhD; Harrington Park Press; 2005.

Straight Parents, Gay Children: Inspiring Families to Live Honestly and With Greater Understanding

Personal account of a man coming to terms with his daughter's lesbianism, his understanding of the challenges she faces, and the work he and other parents of gay children have on behalf of acceptance of gay men and lesbians.

Author: Robert A. Bernstein; Thunder's Mouth Press/Nation Books; 1999.

The Shared Heart: Affirming Images of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Young People

Photographs of affirming images of lesbian, gay, and bisexual young people in high schools, colleges, and workplaces.

Photographer: Adam Mastoon; Harper Collins Publisher; 2001.

Trans Forming Families: Real Stories About Transgender Loved Ones

The first of its kind, this book features forty authors who share their personal journeys from the initial shock or resistance when first learning their loved ones (or they, themselves) were struggling with gender problems, through the various feelings, to final acceptance. Arlene Ishtar Lev, noted trans-therapist, has written a lucid Foreword and Jessica Xavier's Introduction documents the constant public interest in trans-family relationships. Boenke is the mother of an adult MTF son, chair of P-FLAG's Transgender Network, a trans activist, and a retired psychotherapist.

Editor: Mary Boenke; Oak Knoll Press; 2003.

Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman

Leslie Feinberg uncovers persuasive evidence that there have always been people who crossed the cultural boundaries of gender. *Transgender Warriors* is an eye-opening jaunt through the history of gender expression and a powerful testament to the rebellious spirit. This book is out of print but can generally be obtained from third party sellers on Amazon.com.

Author: Leslie Feinberg; Beacon Press; 1997.

Gays and the Holocaust

Bent

This play (also later a movie) is about Max, who is gay man in Nazi Germany. Max is sent to Dachau concentration camp under the Nazi regime. He tries to deny he is gay and gets a yellow label (the one for Jews) instead of pink (the one for gays). In camp he falls in love with his fellow prisoner Horst, who wears his pink label with pride. *Bent* debuted onstage at The Royal National Theatre in 1979 with Ian McKellen starring in the London production and Richard Gere in its later Broadway version. The play raised awareness about how Hitler used Paragraph 175, a largely ignored German law making homosexuality a criminal offense. The movie of the play can be rented or purchased. Playwright: Martin Sherman; Applause Books; 1979.

Men with Pink Triangles: The True Life-and-Death Story of Homosexuals in Nazi Death Camps

This is a life-and-death story of homosexual prisoners in the Nazi concentration camps of World War II. Very little has been written before on this subject as discrimination against homosexuals continued into the 1970's and many prisoners, once released from the camps (if lucky enough to have survived them), were re-imprisoned. It is a graphic book, but important reading of those nightmarish years. The Advocate rated this "One of the Ten Best Books of the Year".

Author: Heinz Heger, translated by David Fernbach; Alyson Books; 1994.

Paragraph 175

This movie is set in 1920's Berlin, known as a homosexual Eden, where gay men and lesbians lived relatively open lives. With the rise of the Nazis, all this changed. Between 1933 and 1945, 100,000 men were arrested for homosexuality under Paragraph 175. Some were imprisoned, others were sent to concentration camps. Of the latter, only about 4,000 survived. In 2000, fewer than ten of these men were known to be living. Five of them told their stories for the first time in the film. If you go to the website, <http://www.tellingpix.com/outreach/index.html> and search the Educational Outreach Program, there is an online study guide that is downloadable as well as a resource guide. Playwrights: Rob Epstein & Jeffrey Friedman; A Telling Pictures Production; 2000.

The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War Against Homosexuals

A comprehensive book about the conditions that led up to the persecution of homosexuals in Germany, their capture, and subsequent internment in Nazi SS camps. It gives many personal accounts of what happened to survivors of the camps, and through their tales, stories of the far greater who did not survive.

Author: Richard Plant; Owl Books; 1998.

An Underground Life: Memoirs of a Gay Jew in Nazi Berlin

Gad Beck was born to a dual faith couple in Weimar, Germany. He recounts gay life in Berlin prior to the rise to power of the Nazis and after, of his efforts to save gay friends and Jews from concentration and deportation camps, by forging documents, hiding people, even in one case by donning a Hitler youth uniform to deceive the Gestapo to attempt to help his lover escape deportation. There is also an online exhibit of his war time diary produced by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum at:

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