

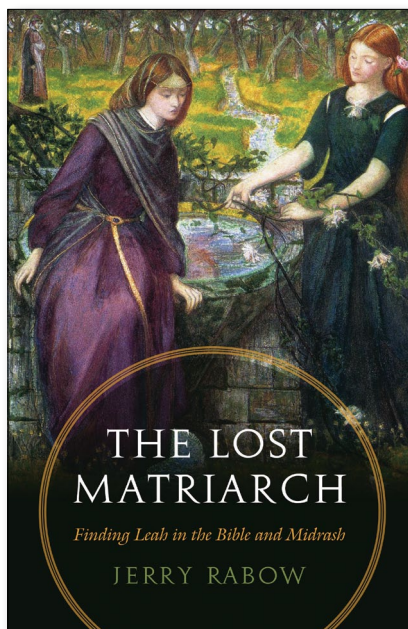


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2014



“With imaginative insight, Jerry Rabow has placed a human face and heart onto the persona of this biblical drama of love, loyalty, and intrigue. The author endows this ancient romance with empathic contemporary relevance.”—Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis, founder of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous and Jewish World Watch

The Lost Matriarch

Finding Leah in the Bible and Midrash
Jerry Rabow

The *Lost Matriarch* offers a unique response to the sparse and puzzling biblical treatment of the matriarch Leah. Although Leah is a major figure in the book of Genesis, the biblical text allows her only a single word of physical description and two lines of direct dialogue. The Bible tells us little about the effects of her lifelong struggles in an apparently loveless marriage to Jacob, the husband she shares with three other wives, including her beautiful younger sister, Rachel. Fortunately, two thousand years of traditional and modern commentators have produced many fascinating interpretations (midrash) that reveal the far richer story of Leah hidden within the text.

Through Jerry Rabow’s weaving of biblical text and midrash, readers learn the lessons of the remarkable Leah, who triumphed over adversity and hardship by living a life of moral heroism. The *Lost Matriarch* reveals Leah’s full story and invites readers into the delightful, provocative world of creative rabbinic and literary commentary.

Jerry Rabow is the author of *A Guide to Jewish Mourning and Condolence* and *50 Jewish Messiahs*.

256 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 1 genealogy
\$22.95 paperback • 978-0-8276-1207-5
\$27.95 Canadian/£16.99 UK

Recently Released

A Bride for One Night

Talmud Tales
Ruth Calderon
Translated by Ilana Kurshan

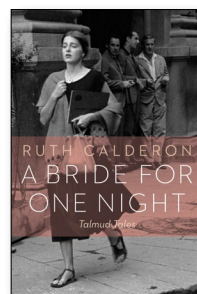
“Highlights Ruth Calderon’s remarkable skill in bridging the cultural gap between the rabbis and contemporary readers.”—*Jewish Review of Books*

“Calderon’s retelling of tales of the Talmud will be healing for those who have felt pushed to the Talmud’s margins and exciting for those who have loved the Talmud’s gift for a good story.”—Rabbi Jill Hammer, author of *Sisters at Sinai*

Ruth Calderon has a doctorate in Talmud from Hebrew University and was elected to the Israeli Knesset in January 2013.

Ruth Calderon has recently electrified the Jewish world with her teachings of talmudic texts. In this volume, her first to appear in English, she offers a fascinating window into some of the liveliest and most colorful stories in the Talmud. Breathing new life into an ancient text, *A Bride for One Night* offers a surprising and provocative read, both for anyone already intimate with the Talmud or for anyone interested in one of the most influential works of Jewish literature.

184 pp. • 6 x 9
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Jewish Meaning in a World of Choice

Studies in Tradition and Modernity
David Ellenson

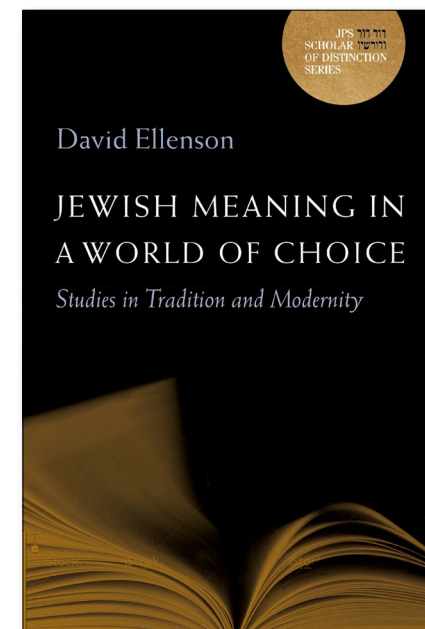
“For over three decades David Ellenson has shaped the life of world Jewry through the power of his scholarship, depth of vision, and kindness of soul. . . . [Ellenson] searches not to hide or homogenize complexity but rather to study it, celebrate it, and enable it to challenge our preconceptions. This book is critical for all who want to know not only the foundations and struggles of modern Jewish life but, more important, the future direction it can take.”—Donniel Hartman, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute

“From the gifted pen of Rabbi David Ellenson come lucid essays covering Zionism, religious pluralism, feminism, and equal rights that illuminate not only a lifetime of scholarship and activism but also the complex bonds that link Jews today in the United States with their forebears in Europe and contemporaries in Israel. Each essay sparkles like a gem, with compelling grace and power.”—Deborah Dash Moore, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan

Internationally recognized scholar David Ellenson shares twenty-three of his most representative essays, drawing on three decades of scholarship and demonstrating the consistency of the intellectual-religious interests that have animated him throughout his lifetime.

These essays center on a description and examination of the complex push and pull between Jewish tradition and Western culture. Ellenson addresses gender equality, women’s rights, conversion, issues relating to who is a Jew, the future of the rabbinate, Jewish day schools, and other emerging trends in American Jewish life. As an outspoken advocate for a strong Israel that is faithful to the democratic and Jewish values that informed its founders, he also writes about religious tolerance and pluralism in the Jewish state. The former president of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, the primary seminary of the Reform movement, Ellenson is widely respected for his vision of advancing Jewish unity and of preparing leadership for a contemporary Judaism that balances tradition with the demands of a changing world.

Scholars and students of Jewish religious thought, ethics, and modern Jewish history will welcome this erudite collection by one of today’s great Jewish leaders.



David Ellenson is chancellor of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. His book *After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to Modernity* won the National Jewish Book Council’s Award as the outstanding book in Jewish thought in 2005. His most recent book, coauthored with Daniel Gordis, is *Pledges of Jewish Allegiance: Conversion, Law, and Policymaking in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Orthodox Responsa*.

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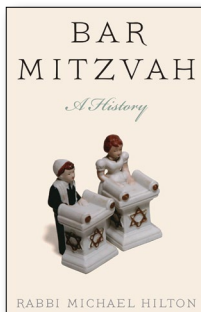
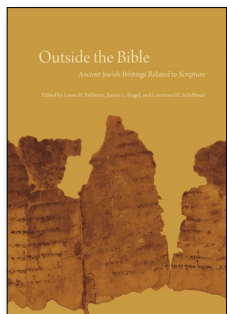
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"Rabbi Michael Hilton has sought out every reference to bar mitzvah in the Bible, the Talmud, and numerous other Jewish texts spanning several centuries, extracting a fascinating miscellany of information, stories, and commentary."—*Jewish Book Council Weekly*

"Michael Hilton does a wonderful job of assembling the lore, laws, and customs regarding bar mitzvah and bat mitzvah in a way that is easily accessible to scholars, educators, and laypeople. Highly recommended!"—Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin, author of *Putting God on the Guest List*

How did bar mitzvah develop over the centuries from an obscure legal ritual into a core component of Judaism? How did it capture the imagination of even non-Jewish youth? *Bar Mitzvah, a History* is a comprehensive account of the ceremonies and celebrations for both boys and girls. A cultural anthropology informed by rabbinic knowledge, it explores the origins and development of the most important coming-of-age milestone in Judaism.

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Rabbi Larry Tabick

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Because a welter of details sometimes conceals the Torah's aura of holiness, Jewish mystics and spiritual teachers for centuries have attempted to reveal that aura through creative interpretation. *The Aura of Torah* explores these attempts in an effort to bridge the gap between the Torah text and the modern Jewish spiritual quest.

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Michael Carasik

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Using historic, linguistic, anthropological, and theological sources, Carasik helps us distinguish between the Jewish Bible's voices—the mythic, the historical, the prophetic, the theological, and the legal. By articulating the differences among these voices, he shows us not just their messages and meanings but also what mattered to the authors. In these contrasts we encounter the Bible anew, as a living work whose many voices tell us about the world out of which the Bible grew—and the world that it created.

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Sylvie Weil

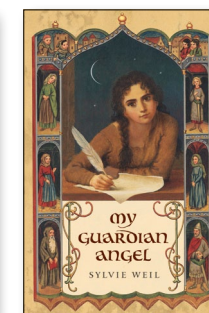
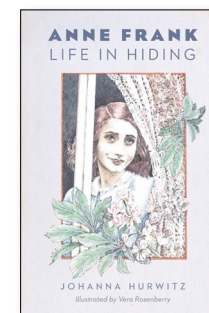
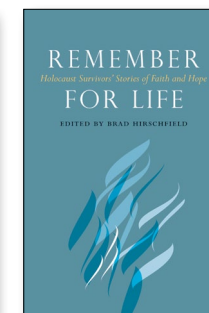
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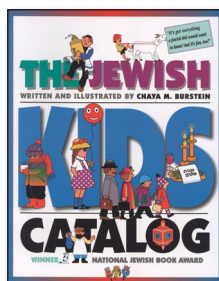
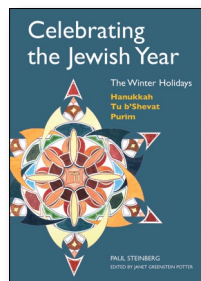
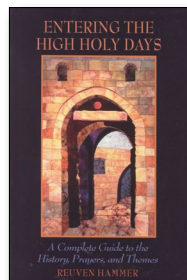
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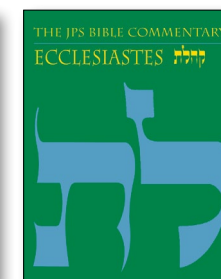
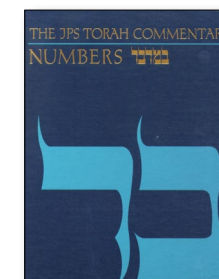
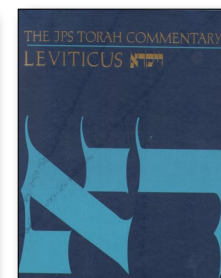
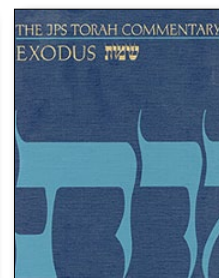
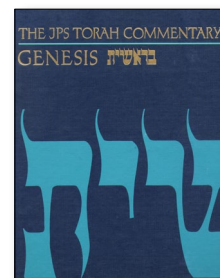
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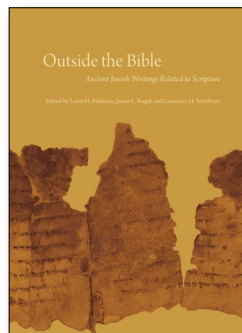
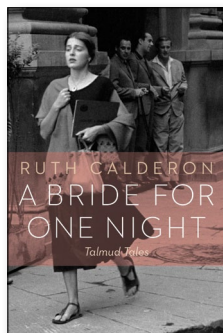
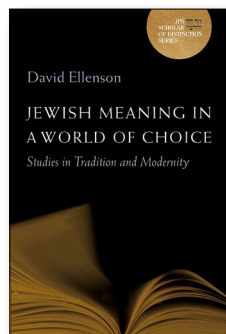
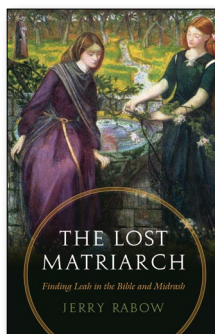
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