

**AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY
BIBLIOGRAPHY**

CURRICULAR MATERIALS FOR TEACHERS

**Prepared by:
Laurie Herman
Library/Media Center Coordinator**

**Coalition for Jewish Learning
6255 N. Santa Monica Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53217**



**Coalition for
Jewish Learning**

MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY BIBLIOGRAPHY

CURRICULAR MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS

Becker, Evelyn. **Topics in Jewish-American Heritage: A Study Guide and Curriculum Outline.** United Federation of Teachers, 1975.

This valuable teacher resource outlines three main topics in Jewish American history: Jewish Migration to America, The Development of the Jewish Community in New York, and Jews in the American Labor Movement. Information is given for each topic, and discussion questions and activity ideas appear for each topic.

Eisenberg, Azriel. **Eyewitnesses to American Jewish History.** UAHC, 1976.

This four volume series provides short, eyewitness written testimony from individuals living in the time period describing Jews or Jewish life of the times.

Part One: From the Colonial Period through the Revolution, 1492-1793.

Part Two: The German Immigration, 1800-1875.

Part Three: The Eastern European Immigration, 1881-1920.

Part Four: The American Jew, 1915-1969.

Karp, Deborah. **Heroes of American Jewish History.** KTAV, 1972.

Young person's history of Jews in America that focuses on individuals who have made important contributions to Jewish American life.

Kenvin, Helene Schwartz. **This Land of Liberty: A History of America's Jews.** Behrman House, 1986.

Textbook and accompanying Teacher's Guide designed for Grades 7-9 that covers over 350 years of American Jewish history, beginning in 1654 with the first Jewish settlers to New Amsterdam. Numerous black and white photos and illustrations throughout.

Leiman, Sondra. **America: The Jewish Experience.** UAHC Press, 1994.

Aimed at grades 4-6, this textbook and Teacher's Guide look at Jewish migration and settlement in America from the

first immigrant Jews beginning with the 1600's and ending with the civil rights movement and modern Jewish American life. Black and white photos & illustrations.

Levinger, Lee. **A History of the Jews in the U.S.** Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1964.

Although parts are outdated, this older religious school text still contains some valuable background information on Jewish history to supplement newer sources.

Nadel, Max. **Teaching the Jewish Experience in America.** American Association for Jewish Education, 1975.

This resource for teachers includes the following units: The Jewish Experience as Reflected in Literature; Jews in America's Development; the Jewish Community; Jewish Immigration to America; and Intergroup Relations in America. Lesson plan ideas are given in each area, as well as bibliographies of materials (some may be out of print, but available in libraries).

Pessin, Deborah. **History of the Jews in America.** United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education, 1957.

Young people's textbook and Activity Book for middle grades from the 1950's. This one covers Jewish immigration and settlement in America, Jews and the Revolutionary War, Unions and America and Israel. Although outdated, parts may supplement teacher's background or teaching ideas.

Rosenberg, Dr. Shelley Kapnek. **Challenge and Change: History of the Jews in America** (3 Volumes with Teaching Guides). Behrman House, 2004-2005.

Developed by the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, this "student friendly" curriculum is aimed at grades 6-9. The first volume covers early settlement through Central European migration, the second spans the Civil War through the rise of Zionism, and Volume 3 looks at Jews of the twentieth century and beyond. These thin, softcover volumes are graphically appealing, colorful, and provide primary source material, pictures, questions, timelines and activities throughout.

Rossel, Seymour. **Let Freedom Ring: a History of the Jews in the United States.** Behrman House, 1995.

Aimed at grades 5-7, this updated text and Teacher's Guide spans over 300 years of Jewish American history in 96 pages. Includes mini-biographies, key vocabulary defined, and discussion questions. Black and white photos and timelines appear throughout the text.

Ruderman, Jerome. **Jews in American History: A Teacher's Guide.** Anti-Defamation League, 1974.

A basic handbook on Jewish history for teachers arranged chronologically. It relates Jewish American history to the general trends in American history. Material is presented

in eight chapters. Each section is followed by a layout of dominant themes for teachers, as well as discussion questions and classroom activities.

****NOTE: On the following bibliographies, some of the books may be out of print, but are often available through synagogue, day school and public libraries.**

*** Indicates that the book is definitely out of print (checked for fiction section only)**

PICTURE BOOKS - AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

Leaving Home and the Journey

Bresnick-Perry, Roslyn	<i>Leaving for America</i>
Cohen, Barbara	<i>Gooseberries to Oranges</i> *
Hest, Amy	<i>When Jessie Came Across the Sea</i>
Hyde, Heidi Smith	<i>Mendel's Accordion</i>

Levinson, Riki	<i>Soon, Annala</i> *
	<i>Watch the Stars Come Out</i>
Richman, Carol	<i>The Lekachmacher Family</i> *
Rosenblum, Richard	<i>Journey to the Golden Land</i> *
Ross, Lillian Hammer	<i>Buba Leah and Her Paper Children</i> *
Sandler, Martin	<i>Annuska's Voyage</i>

Arrival and Life in America

Blanc, Esther	<i>Berchick</i>
Caseley, Judith	<i>Apple Pie and Onions</i> *
Cohen, Barbara	<i>Molly's Pilgrim</i>
Costabel, Eva Deutsch	<i>The Jews of New Amsterdam</i> *
Harvey, Brett	<i>Immigrant Girl: Becky of Eldridge Street</i> *
Heller, Linda	<i>The Castle on Hester Street</i>
Hirsh, Marilyn	<i>The Pink Suit</i> *
Krensky, Stephen	<i>Hanukkah at Valley Forge</i>
McDonough, Yona Zeldis Greenberg	<i>Hammerin' Hank: The Life of Hank Greenberg</i>
Oberman, Sheldon	<i>The Always Prayer Shawl</i>
Olswanger, Anna	<i>Shlemiel Crooks</i>
Polacco, Patricia	<i>The Keeping Quilt</i>
Rael, Elsa	<i>Rivka's First Thanksgiving</i>
	<i>What Zeesie Saw on Delancey Street</i>
	<i>When Zaydeh Danced on Eldridge Street</i>
Russo, Marisabina	<i>A Visit to Oma</i> *
Sobol, Harriet (<i>Biography</i>) *	<i>Grandpa: A Young Man Grown Old</i>
Woodruff, Elvira	<i>The Memory Coat</i> *

MIDDLE SCHOOL FICTION - AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

Leaving Home and the Journey

Blaine, Marge	<i>Devora's Journey</i> (3 rd -6 th) *
Fisher, Leonard Everett	<i>A Russian Farewell</i> (4 th and up) *
Geras, Adele	<i>Voyage</i> (5 th and up) *
Hesse, Karen	<i>Letters From Rifka</i> (4 th and up)
Lasky, Kathryn	<i>The Night Journey</i> (5 th and up)
Levinson, Robin K. <i>World</i>	<i>Miriam's Journey: discovering a New World</i>
	(<i>The Gali Girls Jewish History series</i>)
(4 th -5 th)	
Levitin, Sonia	<i>Journey to America</i> (4 th and up)
Mark, Michael and up) *	<i>Toba at the Hands of a Thief</i> (4 th and up)
Mayerson, Evelyn (2 nd -5 th) *	<i>The Cat Who Escaped From Steerage</i>
Moss, Marissa <i>Immigrant Girl</i> (3 rd -5 th)	<i>Hannah's Journal: the Story of an Immigrant Girl</i>

Nixon, Joan Lowery *Land of Hope* (4th and up)
 Steinberg, Fannie *Birthday in Kishnev* (3rd-5th) *
 Tal, Eve *Double Crossing* (4th-7th)

Arrival and Life in America

Angell, Judie *One Way to Ansonia* (5th and up) *
 Avrech, Robert J. *The Hebrew Kid and the Apache Maiden*
 (6th & up)
 Bitton-Jackson, Livia *Hello, America* (Personal
 narrative - 6th & up)
 Chaikin, Miriam *I Should Worry, I Should Care* (3rd-
 6th)
 Getting Even (3rd-6th)
 Finders Weepers (3rd-6th)
 Friends Forever (3rd-6th)
 Cohen, Barbara *The Carp in the Bathtub*
 Molly's Pilgrim
 Colman, Hila *Rachel's Legacy* (5th and up) *
 Glaser, Linda *Bridge to America: Based on a True*
Story (4th-7th)
 Glasthal, Jacqueline *Liberty on 23rd Street* (3rd-6th)
 Glasthal, Jacqueline *Liberty on 23rd Street* (3rd-6th)
 Hurwitz, Johanna *Faraway Summer* (3rd-5th)
 The Rabbi's Girls (2nd-5th) *
 Lasky, Kathryn *Broken Song* (5th-8th)
 Dreams in the Golden Country: The Diary
of Zipporah
 Feldman, a Jewish Immigrant Girl, New
York City,
 1903 (Dear America) (4th-8th)
 The Night Journey (5th-8th)
 Lehrman, Robert *The Store That Mama Built* (5th and up) *
 Levine, Gail Carson *Dave at Night* (4th-6th)
 Levitin, Sonia *Silver Days* (4th and up)
 Littlefield, Holly & Young,
 Mary O'Keefe *Fire at the Triangle Factory*
 Moskin, Marietta *Waiting for Mama* (2nd-4th) *
 Napoli, Donna Jo *The King of Mulberry Street* (5th-
 8th)
 Nislick, June Leavitt *Zayda Was a Cowboy* (4th-7th)
 Oswald, Nancy *Nothing Here but Stones: A Jewish*
Pioneer Story (4th-8th)
 Rocklin, JoAnne *Strudel Stories* (3rd-6th)
 Roseman, Kenneth *The Melting Pot* (4th-6th)
 The Other Side of the Hudson (4th-6th)
 Sachs, Marilyn *Call Me Ruth* (4th-6th) *
 Lost in America (grades 5 and up)
 Sherman, Eileen Bluestone *Independence Avenue* (5th and up)
 Shiefman, Vicky *Goodbye to the Trees* (5th-8th) *
 Snyder, Carol *The Ike and Mama Books* (2nd-4th)
 Taylor, Sydney *All of a Kind Family series* (3rd-
 6th)

Weisenberg, Fran
(4th and up)

The Streets are Paved with Gold

NON-FICTION FOR YOUTH - AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

- Brooks, Philip *Extraordinary Jewish Americans*
 Corona, Laurel *Immigrants in America - Jewish Americans*
- Cowan, Neil *Our Parents' Lives: The Americanization of Eastern European Jews* (7th and up)
- Diner, Hasia R. *Her Works Praise Her: A History of Jewish Women in America from Colonial Times to the Present* (adult)
- 2000, *The* (adult) *Jews in America*
Jews of the United States from 1654 to New Promised Land, A: A History of Jews in America
- Finkelstein, Norman *Forged in Freedom: Shaping the Jewish-American Experience*
Heeding the Call: Jewish Voices in America's Civil Rights Struggle
- Fisher, Leonard Everett *Ellis Island: Gateway to the New World* (4th and up)
- Haberle, Susan E. *Jewish Immigrants, 1880-1924* (adult)
- Hoobler, Dorothy & Thomas *The Jewish American Family Album*
- Howe, Irving *World of Our Fathers* (8th and up)
- Jacobs, William Jay *Ellis Island: New Hope in a New Land* (1st - 4th)
- Kenvin, Helene Schwartz *This Land of Liberty: A History of America's Jews* (7th and up)
- Kurzweil, Arthur *My Generations: A course in Jewish Family History* (7th and up, but parts can be used with younger students)
- Lefer, Diane *Emma Lazarus* (5th and up)
- Levine, Ellen *If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island* (2nd - 5th)
- Levinson, Nancy Smiler *I Lift My Lamp: Emma Lazarus and the Statue of Liberty* (5th and up)
- Libo, Kenneth *We Lived There, Too* (Jews Settling in the West - 7th and up)
- Lingren, Marissa *The Jewish Americans*
- Meltzer, Milton *The Jewish Americans: A History in Their Own Words* (7th and up)
- Muggamin, Howard *The Jews in America* (4th and up)
Starting From Home (5th and up)
The Jewish Americans (4th and up)

Reef, Catherine	<i>Ellis Island</i> (3 rd - 5 th)
Rubin, Susan Goldman	<i>L'Chaim: To Jewish Life in America!</i>
<i>Celebrating from 1654</i>	
	<i>Until Today</i>
Sagan, Miriam	<i>Tracing Our Jewish Roots</i> (3 rd - 5 th)
Sandler, Martin	<i>Island of Hope: the Journey to</i>
<i>America and the Ellis Island</i>	
	<i>Experience</i> (adult)
Schoener, Allon	<i>Portal to America: the Lower East</i>
<i>Side, 1870-1925</i> (7 th and up)	
Shulman, Abraham	<i>The New Country: Jewish Immigrants</i>
<i>in America</i> (6 th and up)	
Siegel, Beatrice	<i>Lillian Wald of Henry Street</i>
(6 th and up)	
	<i>Sam Ellis's Island</i> (4 th and up)
Stein, Leon and Greider, Wm	<i>The Triangle Fire</i> (adult)
Stein, R. Conrad	<i>Ellis Island</i> (3 rd - 5 th)
Stein, Robert	<i>Jewish Americans</i>
Streissguth, Tom	<i>Say It With Music: A Story About</i>
<i>Irving Berlin</i>	
Telushkin, Joseph	<i>The Golden Land: The Story of Jewish</i>
<i>Immigration to America</i>	
	(7 th and up)
von Drehle, David	<i>Triangle: The Fire that Changed</i>
<i>America</i> (adult)	
Waldman, Bess	<i>The Book of Tziril: A Family</i>
<i>Chronicle</i> (6 th and up)	
Weidt, Maryann N.	<i>Mr. Blue Jeans: A Story About Levi</i>
<i>Straus</i>	
Young, Robert	<i>A Personal Tour of Ellis Island</i>
Wolfman, Ira	<i>Do People Grow on Family Trees?</i>
(3 rd and up)	

BOOKS ON JEWISH MILWAUKEE

Hintz, Martin	<i>Images of America: Jewish Milwaukee</i>
Kann, Bob	<i>A Recipe for Success: Lizzie Kander and</i>
<i>Her Cookbook</i>	
Swichkow, Rabbi Louis B.	<i>The History of the Jews of Milwaukee</i>
(Adult)	
Traxler, Ruth	<i>The Golden Land: 150 Years of Jewish</i>
<i>Life in Milwaukee</i>	

KEY FILMS ON AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY FOR CLASSROOM USE

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

- From Walnut Street** (Jewish History of Milwaukee). 15 minutes. (Ages 9 to Adult)
- Great Jewish Achievers** 56 minutes (9-13 minute segments). (Ages 11 and up)
- Heritage, Civilization and the Jews. Chapter VII: The Golden Land** (DVD & VHS). 60 minutes. (Ages 12 and up)
- Island of Hope, Island of Tears** (DVD & VHS) (Ellis Island). 30 minutes. (Ages 10 and up)
- Jewish American Patriots** (DVD). 1 hour. (Ages 12 and up)
- A Laugh, A Tear, A Mitzvah** 1 hour. (Ages 12 and up)
- The Road to New York from Eastern Europe: Jewish Immigration at the Turn of the Twentieth Century** 17 minutes. (Ages 10 and up)
- A Storm of Strangers** 19 minutes. (Ages 13 and up)
- They Came for Good: A History of the Jews of the United States** 2 cassettes 1 hr. ea. (Ages 12 and up)
- West of Hester Street** 56 minutes. (Ages 12 and up)
- With Liberty for All** 18 minutes. (Ages 10 and up)
- Yiddish: The Mame-Loshn (Yiddish: The Mother Tongue)** 58 minutes. (Ages 12 and up)

DRAMATIC FILMS

- An American Tail** (animated). 1 hr. 21 minutes. (Ages 4 to 10)
- An American Tail: Fievel Goes West** (animated). 1 hr. 15 min. (Ages 4 to 10)
- Avalon** 2 hours 6 minutes. (Ages 12 and up)
- The Frisco Kid** 2 hours. (Ages 10 and up)
- Hester Street** 1 hour 32 minutes. (Ages 12 and up)
- The Imported Bridegroom** 1 hour 33 minutes. (Ages 12 and up)
- The Jazz Singer** (1927) 2 hour 29 minutes. (Ages 12 and up)
- The Keeping Quilt** (animated). 11 min. (Ages 4 to 10)
- Light Unto the Nations** (Alef...Bet..Blastoff!) 30 minutes. (Ages 4 to 8)
- Miss Rose White** Approximately 2 hours. (Ages 12 and up)
- Molly's Pilgrim** 24 minutes. (Ages 5 to 14)

The Triangle Factory Fire Scandal 1 hour 38 minutes.
(Ages 13 and up)

Watch the Stars Come Out (Reading Rainbow) 30 minutes.
(Ages 5 to 8)

Yiddish Films made in America: Americaner Shadchen, Uncle Moses