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New Fall Books and  
Great Holiday Gifts  
2016

## NEW



**ALAN T. LEVENSON** is the Schusterman/ Josey Professor of Jewish History at the University of Oklahoma. He is the author or editor of numerous essays and books, including *The Making of the Modern Jewish Bible: How Scholars in Germany, Israel, and America Transformed an Ancient Text*; *An Introduction to Modern Jewish Thinkers*; and *Between Philosemitism and Antisemitism: Defenses of Jews and Judaism in Germany, 1871–1932* (Nebraska, 2013).

SEPTEMBER 2016  
304 pp. • 6 x 9  
\$32.95 hardcover  
978-0-8276-1250-1

## Joseph

### *Portraits through the Ages*

ALAN T. LEVENSON

Searching for Joseph

“An exciting book. Levenson has a wonderful ability to distill classic and contemporary scholarship and mix it with his own original insights in language every reader will find easy to grasp.”  
—Marc Lee Raphael, Nathan Gumenick Chair of Judaic Studies at the College of William and Mary

“There is simply no other book quite like this. Levenson’s multilayered treatment of the Joseph story, with its Jewish focus and non-Jewish insights interwoven throughout, gives readers the feeling they are being engaged in intimate conversation. Highly recommended.”—Norman A. Stillman, author of *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times*

The complex and dramatic story of Joseph is the most sustained narrative in Genesis. Many call it a literary masterpiece, a story of great depth that can be read on many levels. In a lucid and engaging style Alan T. Levenson brings the voices of Philo, Josephus, Midrash, and medieval commentators, as well as a wide range of modern scholars, into dialogue about this complex biblical figure.

Levenson explores such questions as: Why did Joseph’s brothers hate him so? What is achieved by Joseph’s ups and downs on the path to extraordinary success? Why didn’t Joseph tell his father he was alive and ruling Egypt? What was Joseph like as a husband and father? Was Joseph just or cruel in testing his brothers’ characters?

Levenson deftly shows how an unbroken chain of interpretive traditions, mainly literary but also artistic, have added to the depth of this fascinating and unique character.

## ALSO OF INTEREST

### Akiva

*Life, Legend, Legacy*  
Reuven Hammer  
\$29.95 hardcover  
978-0-8276-1215-0



## Thinking about the Torah

### A Philosopher Reads the Bible

KENNETH SEESKIN

When reason meets Scripture

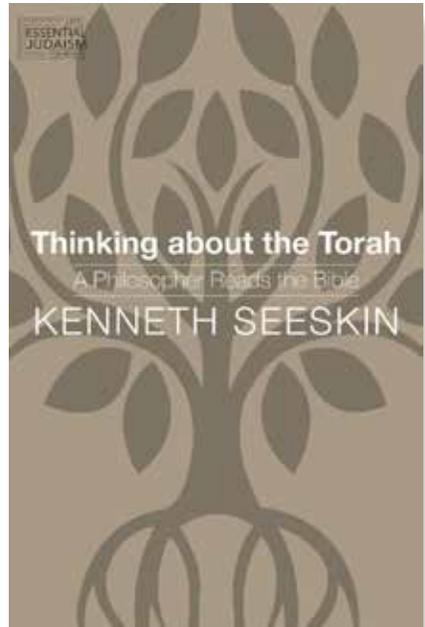
“Seeskin writes beautifully. He is a master teacher, and hence his book has a directness and simplicity about it that is captivating, and even stunning at times.”—Michael L. Morgan, coeditor of *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Jewish Philosophy*

“Not only will readers come away with enhanced understanding of and appreciation for key passages in the Torah but along the way they will be introduced to Plato, Aristotle, Maimonides, Spinoza, Kant, Kierkegaard, Cohen, Rosenzweig, Buber, and Levinas . . . [whose words are] made accessible and important for our contemporary understanding of the Torah.”—Menachem Kellner, chair of the Department of Philosophy and Jewish Thought at Shalem College in Jerusalem and author of *Must a Jew Believe Anything?*

The Bible is an enduring source of inspiration for the human heart and mind, and readers of *Thinking about the Torah* will be rewarded with an enhanced understanding of this great work’s deeper meanings. Drawing on Western philosophy and particularly Jewish philosophy, Kenneth Seeskin delves into ten core biblical verses and the powerful ideas that emerge from them. He speaks to readers on every page and invites conversation about topics central to human existence: how finite beings can relate to the infinite, what love is, the role of ethics in religion, and the meaning of holiness.

Seeskin raises questions we all ask and responds to them with curiosity and compassion, weaving into his own perceptive commentary insights from great Jewish thinkers.

The Bible is concerned with how we think as well as how we follow the commandments, rituals, and customs. Seeskin inspires us to read the Torah with an open mind and think about the lessons it teaches us.



**KENNETH SEESKIN** is Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Professor of Jewish Civilization at Northwestern University. He is the author of several books, including *Searching for a Distant God: The Legacy of Maimonides*, winner of the Koret Jewish Book Award, and is the coeditor of *The Cambridge Guide to Jewish History, Culture, and Religion*, winner of the National Jewish Book Award.

NOVEMBER 2016

216 pp. • 6 x 9

\$21.95 paperback

978-0-8276-1262-4

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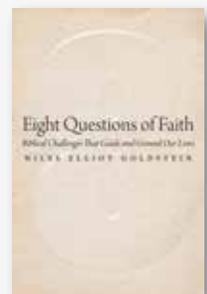
### Eight Questions of Faith

*Biblical Challenges That Guide and Ground Our Lives*

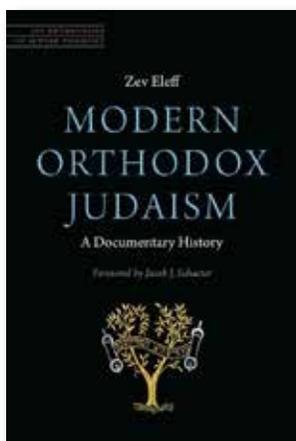
Niles Elliot Goldstein

\$19.95 paperback

978-0-8276-1219-8



## RECENTLY RELEASED



### Modern Orthodox Judaism

#### *A Documentary History*

ZEV ELEFF

FOREWORD BY JACOB J. SCHACTER

*First history of the Modern Orthodox movement*

“This is an original volume with enduring value. . . . Even in fifty to one hundred years, anyone studying Modern Orthodoxy will want to have access to the sources reproduced in this work.”—Adam S. Ferziger, professor at Bar-Ilan University and author of *Beyond Sectarianism: The Realignment of American Orthodox Judaism*

“A pathbreaking documentary history of Modern Orthodoxy in America. There is nothing like it. The documents are well chosen and many will be new—even to scholars.”—Jonathan D. Sarna, Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University

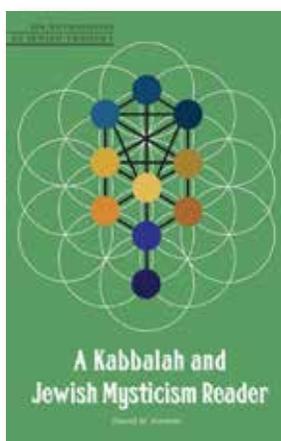
*Modern Orthodox Judaism* offers an extensive selection of primary texts documenting the Orthodox encounter with American Judaism that led to the emergence of the Modern Orthodox movement. Many texts in this volume are drawn from episodes of conflict that helped form Modern Orthodox Judaism. These include the traditionalists’ response to the early expressions of Reform Judaism as well as incidents that helped define the widening differences between Orthodox and Conservative Judaism in the early twentieth century. Other texts explore the internal struggles to maintain order and balance once Orthodox Judaism had separated itself from other religious movements.

**JULY 2016**

570 pp. • 6 x 9 • 16 images

\$40.00 paperback

978-0-8276-1257-0



### A Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism Reader

DANIEL M. HORWITZ

*Demystifying Jewish mysticism*

“Rabbi Horwitz has done a masterful job of collecting important excerpts from the vast storehouse of mystical literature and annotated each selection with a perceptive analysis. This collection will remain the classic book of study on kabbalah and Jewish mysticism for decades to come.”  
—Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins

“A gateway into the world of Jewish spirituality. . . . An important resource, very well done.”—Rabbi Jack Riemer, editor of *The World of the High Holy Days*

An unprecedented annotated anthology of the most important Jewish mystical works, *A Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism Reader* is designed to facilitate teaching these works to all levels of learners in adult education and college classroom settings. Daniel M. Horwitz’s insightful introductions and commentary accompany readings in the Talmud and Zohar and writings by Ba’al Shem Tov, Rav Kook, Abraham Joshua Heschel, and others.

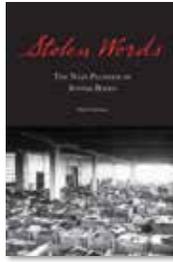
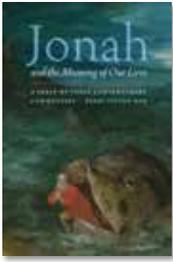
**APRIL 2016**

612 pp. • 6 x 9 • 3 figures, 1 timeline

\$45.00 paperback

978-0-8276-1256-3

## RECENTLY RELEASED



### Jonah and the Meaning of Our Lives

*A Verse-by-Verse*

*Contemporary Commentary*

RABBI STEVEN BOB

“There is hardly a better-known biblical story than *Jonah*. Yet Rabbi Steven Bob shows us in this skillfully written book an even more familiar *Jonah*, one we can see in the mirror every day. Life’s enigmas and dilemmas are somehow less anxiety-producing in light of the lessons we find in *Jonah*’s experiences.”  
—Rabbi Norman M. Cohen, author of *Jewish Bible Personages in the New Testament*

*Jonah and the Meaning of Our Lives* draws on commentaries of Rashi, Ibn Ezra, Kimchi, Abarbanel, and the Malbim, as well as contemporary culture and personal experiences, to reveal the hidden meanings of this perplexing biblical story. In so doing it explores many of the larger questions and topics we face, including human nature, our relationship with God, and how we understand ourselves and lead our lives.

JUNE 2016

252 pp. • 6 x 9  
\$19.95 paperback  
978-0-8276-1220-4

### Stolen Words

*The Nazi Plunder of Jewish Books*

MARK GLICKMAN

“This book is a must-have for every Jewish library and every university library as well.”  
—Jewish Book Council

*Stolen Words* recounts how the largest Jewish book collection in the world—four to five million volumes—was looted by the Nazis and recovered by the Allied forces.

FEBRUARY 2016

344 pp. • 6 x 9 • 34 photographs, 1 table  
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### The JPS Bible Commentary: Song of Songs

*The Traditional Hebrew Text with the New JPS Translation*

COMMENTARY BY MICHAEL FISHBANE

“Michael Fishbane, one of the most penetrating Bible scholars of our time, has surpassed himself in this magnificent study of *Song of Songs*, combining scholarly erudition, poetic sensibility, theological depth, and an unmatched mastery of the history of interpretation of this most difficult yet lyrical testimony of love. A masterpiece of scholarship!”—Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, emeritus chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth

MARCH 2015

400 pp. • 8 x 10  
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### The Commentators' Bible: Deuteronomy

*The Rubin JPS Miqra'ot Gedolot*

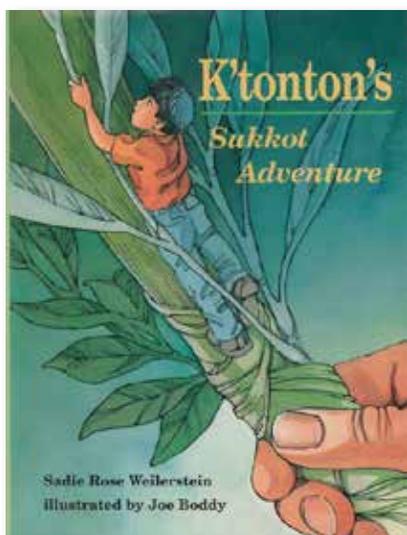
EDITED, TRANSLATED, AND ANNOTATED BY MICHAEL CARASIK

“The *JPS Commentators' Bible* is one of the most useful resources I now have in my library. It opens the door to the wisdom of the classic commentators to Jewish students of all levels of Hebrew fluency. The translations are fluid and accessible, and this important work represents an invaluable invitation to join the centuries-long conversation of Torah commentary and interpretation.”—Rabbi Dan Levin, Temple Beth El, Boca Raton, Florida

APRIL 2015

296 pp. • 9 x 12  
\$75.00 hardcover  
978-0-8276-0939-6

## NEW IN PAPERBACK / FOR YOUNG READERS



SEPTEMBER 2016

FOR AGES 4–8

32 pp. • 9 x 7 • 18 illustrations, 1 glossary

\$11.95 paperback

978-0-8276-1268-6

### K'tonton's Sukkot Adventure

SADIE ROSE WEILERSTEIN

ILLUSTRATED BY JOE BODDY

“Contemporary expressions have been substituted for outdated ones, and the tempo has been picked up. In other words, K'tonton has been much improved [since the original publication], but the main elements of the story and of the holiday remain. The witty, expressive pen-and-ink sketches add to the book's appeal.”—Marcia Posner, the Jewish Book Council

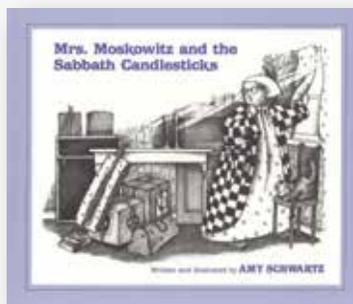
K'tonton—the lovable Jewish “Tom Thumb”—has cast a magic spell on children (and their parents and grandparents) for generations, delighting countless readers of all ages with his mischievous escapades. Now he appears again in *K'tonton's Sukkot Adventure*, a picture book combining two of Sadie Rose Weilerstein's classic tales with light-hearted, whimsical drawings by award-winning illustrator Joe Boddy.

From the moment of K'tonton's enchanted arrival, he takes readers on a magic carpet ride into the delightful world of Jewish imagination. Where else could an etrog box be exactly the right size for a bed? And who else but K'tonton could stow away with his father's etrog in order to join the Sukkot celebration in the synagogue, only to find himself swinging dangerously from the end of a palm frond!

Share this marvelous adventure of the enduring little hero and learn about the holiday of Sukkot and its traditions and rituals.

**SADIE ROSE WEILERSTEIN** (1894–1993) is the creator of the tiny, mischievous K'tonton, the hero of many of her short stories, loved by children since the 1930s. Weilerstein was twice awarded the annual Juvenile Award of the Jewish Book Council of America, and the Women's League for Conservative Judaism granted her their Yovel (Jubilee) Award for her contribution to Jewish children.

**JOE BODDY** has received the Gold Medallion Award, the Children's Choice Award, and the Hidden Picture of the Year and Illustrator of the Month awards from *Highlights* magazine.



### ALSO OF INTEREST

#### Mrs. Moskowitz and the Sabbath Candlesticks

Amy Schwartz

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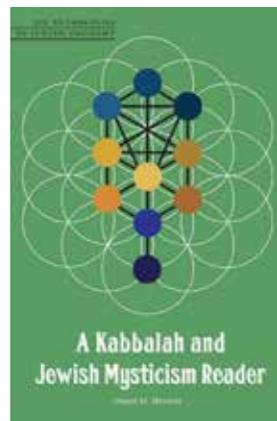
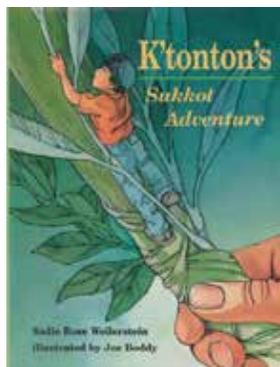
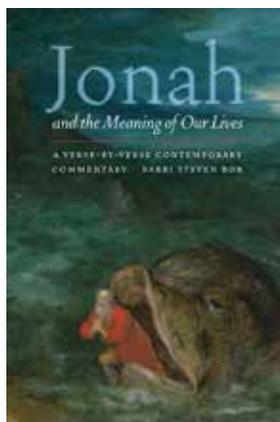
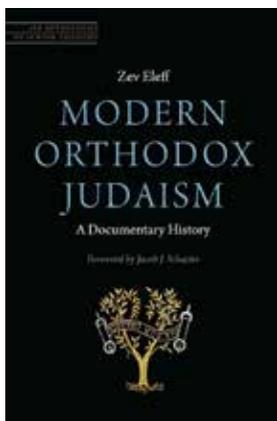
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