

A Partial Bibliography On Jewish Children and Parenting

Abramowitz, Yosef I and Rabbi Susan Silverman. *Jewish Family and Life: Traditions, Holidays and Values for Today's Parents and Children* . Golden Books, 1997

Bell, Roselyn. "Thank Heaven for Little Girls," in *The Hadassah Magazine Jewish Parenting Book*. Ed. Roselyn Bell. New York: The Free Press, 1989. Surveys traditional Jewish ways of welcoming daughters and recent innovative ceremonies.

Cardin, Rabbi Nina Beth. . *Tears of Sorrow, Seeds of Hope: A Jewish Spiritual Companion for Infertility and Pregnancy Loss*. Jewish Lights, 1998.

Cohen, Debra Nussbaum. *Celebrating Your New Jewish Daughter: Creating Jewish Ways to Welcome Baby Girls into the Covenant*. Jewish Lights, 2001

Diamant, Anita . *How to be a Jewish Parent: A Practical Handbook for Family Life*. Schocken Books, 2000

Diamant, Anita and David Cooper. *Living a Jewish Life: Jewish Traditions, Customs, and Values for Today's Families* . HarperCollins, 1996

Diamant, Anita. *The New Jewish Baby Book: Names, Ceremonies & Customs - A Guide for Today's Families*. Jewish Lights, 1994

Donin, Hayim Halevy. *To Raise a Jewish Child: A Guide for Parents* . Basic Books, 1991

Friedland, Ronnie and Edmund Case, editors . *The Guide to Jewish Interfaith Family Life: An Interfaithfamily.com Handbook*. Jewish Lights, 2001

Frymer-Kensky, Tikva. "A Ritual for Affirming and Accepting Pregnancy". *Daughters of the King: Women and the Synagogue*. Ed. Susan Grossman and Rivka Haut. Jewish Publication Society, 1992

Frymer-Kensky, Tikva. *Motherprayer: The Pregnant Women's Spiritual Companion*. NY: Riverhead Books, 1995

Fuchs-Kreimer, Nancy. *Parenting as a Spiritual Journey* . Jewish Lights, 1998

Geffen, Rela M. ed. *Celebration and Renewal: Rites of Passage in Judaism*. Jewish Publication Society, 1993

Essays by rabbis, psychologists, sociologists and educators from all branches of Judaism, who discuss Jewish legal and contemporary perspectives on the lifecycle and accompanying rituals.

Gold, Michael. *And Hannah Wept: Infertility, Adoption and the Jewish Couple*. Jewish Publication Society, 1988

Rabbi Gold discusses infertility and adoption as they are treated both in the Bible and in the Rabbinic literature. He weaves a Rabbi's counseling together with practical medical advice.

Goldstein, Rabbi Elyse. "Blood and Men: A Feminist Look at Brit Milah". *ReVisions: Seeing Torah Through a Feminist Lens*. Jewish Lights, 1998

Gordis, Daniel . *Becoming a Jewish Parent: How to Explore Spirituality and Tradition with Your Children* . Three Rivers Press, 2000

A professor and rabbi tackles the topic of raising Jewish children in a secular society. Gordis is particularly clear-sighted on this issue and doesn't miss hitting any hot buttons.

Hoffman, Lawrence A. *Covenant of Blood: Circumcision and Gender in Rabbinic Judaism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Traces the history and symbolism of brit milah through the Rabbinic era of the Mishnah and Talmud. While acknowledging women's marginalization in Jewish tradition, Hoffman also examines the roles that mothers historically played in their son's circumcisions until the medieval period (when they were excluded)

Isaacs, Ronald H. *Rites of Passage: A Guide to the Jewish Life Cycle*. KTAV, 1992

Kenison, Katrina . *Mitten Strings for God: Reflections for Mothers in a Hurry* . Warner Books, 2002

Klein, Michele. *A Time to Be Born: Customs and Folklore of Jewish Birth*. Jewish Publication Society 1998

Kolatch, Alfred. *Best Baby Names for Jewish Children*. Jonathan David, 1998. Thousands of names from which parents can make a suitable selection for their babies. Each entry gives the origin and meaning of the name and suggests one

Hebrew equivalent. Includes Anglicized forms of the latest and most popular names used in Israel.

Koltach, Alfred J. *The Complete Dictionary of English and Hebrew First Names*. New York: Jonathan David Publishers, 1984

Kula, Rabbi Irwin and Vanessa L. Ochs, PhD, Editors. *The Book of Jewish Sacred Practices: CLAL's Guide to Everyday and Holiday Rituals and Blessings*. Jewish Lights, 2001

Leifer, Daniel I. and Myra Leifer. "On the Birth of a Daughter". *The Jewish Woman: New Perspectives*. Ed. Elizabeth Koltun. Schocken Books, 1976

Levine, Elizabeth Resnick. *A Ceremonies Sampler: New Rites, Celebrations, and Observances of Jewish Women*. Woman's Institute for Continuing Jewish Education, 1991

Litman, Rabbi Jane Rachel and Rabbi Debra Orenstein. Ed. *Lifecycles, V. 2: Jewish Women on Biblical Themes in Contemporary Life*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights, 1997

The author renounces her previous views that niddah and mikveh use can be reclaimed by women for feminist reasons. She now believes that humans become holy by accepting their bodily functions, not by stigmatizing them, as she believes the laws of niddah do.

Magnus, Shulamit. "Simhat Lev: Celebrating a Birth". *Lifecycles Volume 1: Jewish Women on Life Passages and Personal Milestones*. Ed. Rabbi Debra Orenstein. Jewish Lights, 1994

A naming ceremony for a boy that took place a month after his birth (his brit milah was performed privately), which emphasizes entering the Covenant through special Torah readings and blessings. An alternative for those who want to de-emphasize circumcision. Can easily be adapted for girls.

Mernit, Susan. "Entering the Covenant: Bris". *The Hadassah Magazine Jewish Parenting Book*. Ed. Roselyn Bell. New York: The Free Press, 1989

Overwhelmed new parents find a kindly mohel to help them with the decisions and roles involved in a brit milah

Orenstein, Debra ed. *Lifecycles: Jewish Women on Life Passages and Personal Milestones*. Jewish Lights, 1994 ~ Three Volumes

Ochs, Vanessa L. *Safe and Sound: Protecting Your Child in an Unpredictable World*. Penguin Books, 1995

Helps parents cope with irrational fears and make age-appropriate decisions about how to protect their children.

Plaskow, Judith. "Bringing a Daughter into the Covenant". *Womanspirit Rising: A Feminist Reader in Religion*. Eds. Carol P. Christ and Judith Plaskow. Harper San Francisco, 1992 [1979]

Pollack, Miriam. "Circumcision: A Jewish Feminist Perspective". *Jewish Women Speak Out: Expanding the Boundaries of Psychology*. Eds. Kayla Weiner and Arinna Moon. Canopy Press, 1995

Rosenkrantz, Linda, and Pamela Redmond Satran. *Beyond Sarah and Sam: An Enlightened Guide to Jewish Baby Naming*. St. Martin's Press, March 1992
A guide to help you find a name that reflects your heritage and suits your personal style.

Rothschild, Sylvia and Sheridan, Sybil, eds. *Taking Up the Timbrel*. SCM Press, 2001

Sandler, Ellen and Dennis Danziger. "Naming Ceremony for a Daughter". *A Ceremonies Sampler: New Rites, Celebrations, and Observances of Jewish Women*. Ed. Elizabeth Resnick Levine. Woman's Institute for Continuing Jewish Education, 1991

Sasso, Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg. "Brit Bnot Yisrael: Welcoming a Daughter into the Covenant". *A Ceremonies Sampler: New Rites, Celebrations, and Observances of Jewish Women*. Ed. Elizabeth Resnick Levine. Woman's Institute for Continuing Jewish Education, 1991

Sidi, Smadar Shir. *The Complete Book of Hebrew Baby Names*. Harper San Francisco, 1989

A comprehensive Hebrew baby name book with thousands of listings, advice on choosing names, naming ceremonies, and much more.

Steinberg-Oren, Susan. "Bris, Britah: Parents' First Lessons in Balancing Gender, Culture, Tradition, and Religion." *Celebrating the Lives of Jewish Women: Patterns in a Feminist Sampler*. Eds. Rachel Josefowitz Siegel and Ellen Cole. Harrington Park Press, 1997

Strassfeld, Michael . *The Jewish Holidays: A Guide and Commentary* . Harper Collins, 1985

A wonderful and thoughtful guide to the Jewish holidays, rich with ideas for modern families.

Strassfeld, Michael and Sharon . *The First, Second and Third Jewish Catalogues*, Jewish Publication Society, 1989

For anyone who has ever wondered how to make wine, crochet a kippah, locate a Jewish film, start a Jewish library, or bring the Messiah, this exciting collection of far-ranging topics can help any Jew--those steeped in tradition or those just discovering Judaism--to become personally involved in the many aspects of Jewish ritual life, customs, cooking, crafts, and creation. Many Jews grew up on these original do-it-yourself guides to Judaism, though they can seem somewhat dated today. There is also a kids' Jewish catalogue.

Strassfeld, Michael and Sharon Strassfeld, Eds. *The Jewish Catalog*. Jewish Publication Society, 1973

Often called the First Jewish Catalog (the Second and Third are excellent as well.) A book of spiritual creativity, practical ceremony, and thought, including new ideas on how to celebrate and imagine Shabbat.

Umansky, Ellen M. and Ashton, Dianne. *Four Centuries of Jewish Women's Spirituality*. Beacon Press, 1992

Wolfson, Ron. . *Sabbath, 2nd Edition: The Family Guide to Preparing for and Welcoming the Sabbath*. Jewish Lights, 2002

Women's League for Conservative Judaism. *Simhat Bat: Ceremonies to Welcome a Baby Girl*.

Contains an introduction by Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, three sample ceremonies with traditional blessings in English, Hebrew, and transliteration, additional readings, a resource list, a sample invitation, and a Simhat Bat certificate. Available from Women's League for Conservative Judaism 48 East 74th Street, New York, NY 10021, tel. 212-628-1600, fax. 212-772-3507.

Some Bar/Bat Mitzvah Resources:

Adelman, Penina, Ali Feldman, and Shulamit Reinharz. *The JGirl's Guide: The Young Jewish Woman's Handbook For Coming Of Age*. Jewish Lights Publishing, 2005.

The JGirl's Guide is a first-of-its-kind book of practical, real-world practical, fun advice for a Jewish girl's journey through adolescence. A wide range of writers addresses friendship, food, sexuality, self-esteem, and more.

Davis, Judith. *Whose Bar/Bat Mitzvah Is This, Anyway?: A Guide for Parents Through a Family Rite of Passage*. St. Martin's Griffin, 1998.

Explores the bar/bat mitzvah as a rite of passage for the entire family, with possibilities for healing and growth for all.

Hyman, Paula E. "The Introduction of Bat Mitzvah in Conservative Judaism in Postwar America." Ed. Deborah Dash Moor. *YIVO Annual*. Vol. 19, pp 133-146. 1990.

A scholarly and readable article tracing the development of bat mitzvah in the Conservative movement.

Leneman, Helen. *Bar/Bat Mitzvah Basics: A Practical Family Guide to Coming of Age*. Jewish Lights Publishing, 1996.

A practical guide for the entire family about navigating the bar/bat mitzvah process, with chapters written by Jewish professionals as well as parents and teens themselves.

Salkin, Rabbi Jeffrey K. *Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah*. Jewish Lights, 1992.

The essential guide to the meaning and experience of bar/bat mitzvah, and its significance in the chain of Jewish tradition; also includes a guide to the Shabbat morning prayers. See also the companion volume, *For Kids—Putting God on Your Guest List: How to Claim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, emphasizing meaning over performance and ritual over the party.

WEBSITES:

Jewish Family.com

(www.jewishfamily.com)

All kinds of advice and ideas on how to learn and celebrate as a Jewish family. (<http://www.babaganewz.com/>) The children's branch of Jewish Family life. Great for children 8 and up. Some excellent teen resources.

Ritual Well

www.ritualwell.org

A wonderful resource for alternative rituals for all aspects of life.

My Jewish Learning.com

(www.myjewishlearning.com)

This site has information about Jewish lifecycle events, including conversion, and has a bibliography as well.

The Reform Movement's Website

The resources under education and youth are particularly helpful for people of all ages.

www.URJ.org

The Jewish Outreach Institute

<http://www.joi.org/>

InterfaithFamily.com

A major online resource for interfaith families exploring Jewish life; advocates grass-roots for a welcoming Jewish community. Its web magazine and archives have many articles about Jewish holidays, lifecycle events, and spirituality and daily life in the context of interfaith families.