

BITES & BOOKS

THURSDAYS
at NOON



For details, contact Laura Gottlieb, Director of Cultural Resources at lgottlieb@tbeonline.org or 248.851.1100.

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SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 - ELUL EDITION

Facilitator: Rabbi Megan Brudney

The Jewish Deli

by Ben Nadler



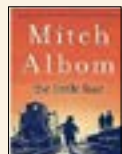
Explore identity and food with Rabbi Brudney as part of this year's Elul theme with *The Jewish Deli* book discussion. This book is a delightful celebration of Jewish delicatessens in an accessible comics format, full of history and humor, and guaranteed to make you hungry. Beloved culinary and cultural institutions, Jewish delis are wonderlands of amazing flavors and great food—bright, buttery, briny, sweet, fatty, salty, smoky. In *The Jewish Deli*, comics artist and deli aficionado Ben Nadler takes a deliciously entertaining deep dive into the history and culture of this food and the places that serve it up to us across the counter.

NOVEMBER 14, 2024

Facilitator: Rabbi Mark Miller

The Little Liar

by Mitch Alborn



Eleven-year-old Nico Krispis never told a lie. When the Nazis invade his home in Salonika, Greece, the trustworthy boy is discovered by a German officer, who offers him a chance to save his family. All Nico has to do is convince his fellow Jewish residents to board trains heading to "new homes" where they are promised jobs and safety. Unaware that this is all a cruel ruse, the innocent boy goes to the station platform every day and reassures the passengers that the journey is safe. Only after it is too late, Nico discovers that he helped send his family, the people he loved—and all the others—to their doom at Auschwitz. Nico never tells the truth again. As the decades pass, Alborn reveals the consequences of what they said, did, and endured. A moving parable that explores honesty, survival, revenge and devotion, *The Little Liar* is Mitch Alborn at his very best.

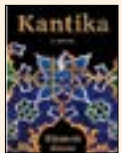
JANUARY 16, 2025

Facilitator: Cantor Rachel

Gottlieb Kalmowitz

Kantika

by Elizabeth Graver



A kaleidoscopic portrait of one family's displacement across four countries, *Kantika*—"song" in Ladino—follows the joys and losses of Rebecca Cohen, feisty

daughter of the Sephardic elite of early 20th-century Istanbul. When the Cohens lose their wealth and are forced to move to Barcelona and start anew, Rebecca fashions a life and self from what comes her way—a failed marriage, the need to earn a living, but also passion, pleasure and motherhood. Exploring identity, place and exile, *Kantika* also reveals how the female body—in work, art and love—serves as a site of both suffering and joy. A haunting, inspiring meditation on the tenacity of women, this lush, lyrical novel from Elizabeth Graver celebrates the insistence on seizing beauty and grabbing hold of one's one and only life.

MARCH 13, 2025

Facilitator: Debbie Morosohk

Uncomfortable Conversations with a Jew

by Noa Tishby, Emmanuel Acho



From two New York Times bestselling authors, a timely, disarmingly honest, and thought-provoking investigation into antisemitism that connects the dots between the tropes and hatred of the past to our current complicated moment. For Emmanuel Acho and Noa Tishby no question about Jews is off-limits. They go there. They cover Jews and money. Jews and power. Jews and privilege. Jews and white privilege. The Black and Jewish struggle. Emmanuel asks, Did Jews kill Jesus? To which Noa responds, "Why are Jewish people history's favorite scapegoat?" They unpack Judaism itself: Is it a religion, culture, a peoplehood, or a race? And: Are you antisemitic if you're anti-Zionist? The questions—and answers—might make you squirm, but together, they explain the tropes, stereotypes, and catalysts of antisemitism in America today.

MAY 15, 2025

Facilitator: Rachel Ellis

Don't Forget to Write

by Sara Goodman Confino



In 1960, a young woman discovers a freedom she never knew existed in this exhilarating, funny, and emotional novel. When Marilyn Kleinman is caught making out with the rabbi's son in front of the whole congregation, her parents

ship her off to her great-aunt Ada for the summer. If anyone can save their daughter's reputation, it's Philadelphia's strict premier matchmaker. Either that or Marilyn can kiss college goodbye. To Marilyn's surprise, Ada's

not the humorless septuagenarian her mother described. She's sharp, straight-talking, takes her job very seriously, and abides by her own rules...mostly. As the summer unfolds, Ada and Marilyn head for the Jersey shore, where Marilyn helps Ada scope out eligible matches—for anyone but Marilyn, that is. Because if there's one thing Marilyn's learned from Ada, it's that she doesn't have to settle. With the school year quickly approaching and her father threatening to disinherit her, Marilyn must make her choice for her future: return to the comfortable life she knows or embrace a risky, unknown path on her own.

JULY 10, 2025 (in partnership with JARC)

Facilitator: Laura Gottlieb

Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole

by Rabbi Julia Watts Belser



"What's wrong with you?" Scholar, activist, and rabbi Julia Watts Belser is all too familiar with this question. What's wrong isn't her wheelchair, though—it's exclusion, objectification, pity, and disdain. Our attitudes about disability have such deep cultural roots that we almost forget their sources. But open the Bible and disability is everywhere. Moses believes his stutter renders him unable to answer God's call. Jacob's encounter with an angel leaves him changed not just spiritually but physically. For centuries, these stories have been told in ways that treat disability as a metaphor for spiritual incapacity or as a challenge to be overcome. Through fresh and unexpected readings of the Bible, *Loving Our Own Bones* instead paints a luminous portrait of what it means to be disabled and one of God's beloved. Belser delves deep into sacred literature, braiding the insights of disabled, feminist, Black, and queer thinkers with her own experiences as a queer disabled Jewish feminist. She talks back to biblical commentators who traffic in disability stigma and shame. *Loving Our Own Bones* invites readers to claim the power and promise of spiritual dissent, and to nourish their own souls through the revolutionary art of radical self-love.

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