



Books about Racial Justice Available in our Library

For questions or to arrange pick up, please [email temple librarian Clare Kinberg](mailto:email_temple_librarian_Clare_Kinberg). Additionally, if you're interested in donating to Temple Beth Emeth to purchase more books about racial justice, please contact either Clare or the Social Action Committee at socialaction@templebethemeth.org.

[FICTION](#)

[NONFICTION](#)

[CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT](#)

[VIDEOS](#)

FICTION

F HER

Herron, Carolivia. ***Peacesong DC : A Jewish Africana Academia Epic Tale of Washington City***. Washington, DC, Street to Street Epic Publications, 22 Jul 2016.

Summary: Shirah Shulamit Ojero has four loves, her African American culture, her Jewish heritage, academic study -- especially the study of literary epics -- and her city, Washington, DC. *Peacesong DC* displays the interconnection of these four loves as Shirah grows up in the Washington DC neighborhoods of Mayfair Mansions, Kenilworth, Anacostia,

Takoma DC. and downtown. Throughout her life, Shirah connects with the buildings and images of the National Mall which she considers the epic center of the United States. After graduating from DC Public Schools (Neval Thomas, Woodson, and Coolidge), Shirah pursues academic degrees at Howard University, Eastern Baptist College, Villanova University, the Folger Library Institute, and the University of Pennsylvania. Although all of the stories told in Peacesong DC are based on actual events in the author's life, the book is classified as fiction rather than non-fiction because the stories bend toward the arc of storytelling rather than that of rigid facts. If something in the story appears particularly improbable, it is likely to be the truth. For the full hilarious story of how Shirah (aka Asenath) becomes an educator at Harvard University (West Cambridge U) and a librarian in ancient Egypt, see the author's longer work, Asenath and the Origin of Nappy Hair.

F HOR

Horn, Dara. ***All other nights : a novel***. New York, W.W. Norton & Co, 2009.

Summary: Jacob Rappaport, a Jewish soldier in the Union army during the Civil War is ordered to murder his own uncle in New Orleans, who is plotting to assassinate President Lincoln. After this harrowing mission, Jacob is recruited to pursue another enemy agent, the daughter of a Virginia family friend. But this time, his assignment isn't to murder the spy, but to marry her.--From publisher's description.

F MAN

Manishtanah. ***Ariel Sampson: Freelance Rabbi: A novel by Manishtana***. New York, NY, Multikosheral Press, 2018.

NONFICTION

AMJ BOR

Bornstein, George. ***The colors of Zion : blacks, Jews, and Irish from 1845 to 1945***. Cambridge, Mass, Harvard University Press, 2011.

Content Notes:

- Races -- Diasporas and nationalisms -- Melting pots -- Popular and institutional cultures -- The gathering storm: the 1930s and World War II.

AMJ COX

Cox, Anna-Lisa. ***A stronger kinship: one town's extraordinary story of hope and faith***. New York, Little, Brown and Co, 2006.

Content Notes:

- The bleeding heartland -- The journey: 1860-1866 -- Rights: 1866-1869 -- Citizenship, 1870-1875 -- Equality, 1875-1880 -- Independence: 1880-1884 -- Friendship, 1885-1889 -- Justice: 1890-1896.

AMJ HAN

Hanna-Attisha, Mona. ***What the eyes don't see: a story of crisis, resistance, and hope in an American city***. New York, One World, 2018.

Summary: "From the heroic pediatrician who rallied a community and brought the fight for justice to national attention comes a powerful firsthand account of the Flint water crisis--a dramatic story of failed democracy and inspiring citizen advocacy and action. In the heart of the world's wealthiest nation, one hundred thousand people were poisoned by the water supply for two years--with the knowing complicity of their government. Written by the crusading pediatrician who helped turn the crisis into a transformative movement for change, *What the Eyes Don't See* is a devastating insider chronicle of the Flint water crisis, the signature environmental disaster of our time, and a riveting narrative of personal advocacy. Here is the dramatic story of how Dr. Mona used science to prove Flint kids were exposed to lead, and how she courageously went public with her research and faced a brutal backlash. With

persistence and single-minded sense of mission, she spoke truth to power. The book explores the horrific reality of how misguided austerity policies and callous bureaucratic indifference placed an entire city at risk. A medical and scientific thriller, *What the Eyes Don't See* grapples with our country's history of environmental injustice while telling the inspiring personal story of Dr. Mona--an immigrant, a doctor, and a scientist--whose family roots in social justice activism buoyed her through the fight for justice in Flint. It captures a timely and essential story of how communities can come together to fight for social justice, even in opposition to their own governments"-- --Provided by publisher.

AMJ SCH

Schultz, Debra L. ***Going South : Jewish women in the civil rights movement***. New York, New York University Press, 2001.

B GAD

Gad, Marra B. ***The color of love: a memoir of a mixed-race Jewish girl***. Chicago, Bolden , an Agate imprint, 2019.

B LES

Lester, Julius. ***Lovesong: becoming a Jew***. New York, Arcade Pub, 1991.

B SIL

Silverman, Susan. ***Casting lots : creating a family in a beautiful, broken world***. Boston, MA, Da Capo Press, 2016.

Summary: "What does it mean to be a mother? Professional woman? Wife and partner? Sister, daughter...? How do we discover the true meaning of identity? As a child, Susan Silverman was surrounded with a loving family--even if her parents weren't happily married, they were devoted to their kids. Not a terribly faith-based family, social justice was the religion practiced at the Silvermans' home. Susan's vibrant, funny, imminently relatable voice tells of a family growing up,

from her parents' devastating loss of their infant son, to raising their bright, funny, wildly individual daughters. And it's also a creation story of her own family: raising her three bright, funny, wildly individual daughters, and the journey they make to adopt two boys from Ethiopia. A meditation on identity, faith, and belonging, the book will resonant with anyone who's struggled to find her own place in the world, what that place is, and how to create and sustain a family in a world full of chaos"--
--Provided by pub lisher.

B STE STE

Stevenson, Bryan. ***Just mercy: a story of justice and redemption***. New York, Spiegel & Grau, 2015.

Summary: The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his pursuit of the ideal of compassion in American justice.

Content Notes:

- Introduction : higher ground -- Mockingbird players -- Stand -- Trials and tribulation -- The old rugged cross -- Of the coming of John -- Surely doomed -- Justice denied -- All God's children -- I'm here -- Mitigation -- I'll fly away -- Mother, mother -- Recovery -- Cruel and unusual -- Broken -- The stonecatchers' song of sorrow -- Epilogue.

C TWI

Twitty, Michael. ***The cooking gene: a journey through African-American culinary history in the Old South***. New York, NY, HarperCollins Publishers, 2017.

Summary: "First Amistad hardcover published 2017" ----
Provided by publisher."A memoir of Southern cuisine and food culture that traces the paths of the author's ancestors (black and white) through the crucible of slavery to show its effects on our food today"-- --Provided by publisher.

COM WIL

Wilson, Dwight L. ***Modern psalms: in search of peace and justice.***
Richmond, Indiana, Friends United Press, 2017.

Summary: "Over one hundred religious poems (psalms) written by the author dealing with issues of faith, Quakerism, race, and social justice and social change."-- --Provided by publisher.

JH KUS

Kushner, David. ***Levittown : two families, one tycoon, and the fight for civil rights in America's legendary suburb.*** New York, Walker & Co, 2009.

Content Notes:

- The captain and the kids -- The other Harlem -- Dodgers fans -- The perfect plan -- A good home -- Pioneers -- Neighbors -- An extra bedroom and a garage -- 43 Deepgreen Lane -- The secret castle -- The baby won't know -- The missing thumb -- Battle lines -- Back to school -- Dandelions and bayonets -- Freedom fighters -- The stand -- The promise.

PE HAM

Hamilton, Virginia. ***The people could fly : American Black folktales.*** New York, Knopf, 1985.

Summary: Retold Afro-American folktales of animals, fantasy, the supernatural, and desire for freedom, born of the sorrow of the slaves, but passed on in hope.

PE TOB

Tobin, Jacqueline. ***Hidden in plain view : the secret story of quilts and the underground railroad.*** New York, N.Y, Anchor Books, 2000, c1999.

PH JAC

Jacobs, Jill. ***There shall be no needy : pursuing social justice through Jewish law & tradition***. Woodstock, Vt, Jewish Lights Pub, 2009.

Content Notes:

- The search for an integrated Judaism -- A vision of economic justice -- Essential terms : tikkun olam, tzedek, and prophetic Judaism -- Defining poverty and the poor -- Sufficient for one's needs : the collection and allocation of tzedakah -- Servants to servants or servants to God : workers, employers, and unions -- They shall tremble no more : housing and homelessness -- I will remove illness from within your midst : the provision of health care -- The city and the garden : environmental sustainability for the twenty-first century -- When your brother is flogged : crime, punishment, and rehabilitation -- Judaism in the public sphere.

PH THO

Thomas, Rhondra Robinson. ***Claiming Exodus: a cultural history of Afro-Atlantic identity, 1774-1903***. Waco, Tex, Baylor University Press, 2013.

Content Notes:

- Exodus and the politics of liberty in the eighteenth-century Atlantic world, 1760-1800 -- Exodus as the blueprint for building free black communities in America and abroad, 1800-1840 -- Afro-Atlantic exodus: integration vs. emigration in the era of manifest destiny, 1840-1861 -- Exodus, The civil war, and reconstruction: from Egypt to the border of Canaan, an American journey, 1861-1877 -- African Americans in the nadir: American Egypt, American Canaan, 1877-1900 -- Afterword: The first Joshua generation-stranded on the border of Canaan, 1895-1903.

Rabbi Levy's Shelf

Skloot, Rebecca. ***The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks***. New York, Crown Publishers, 2010.

WJ KHA

The flying camel : essays on identity by women of North African and Middle Eastern Jewish heritage. New York [Emeryville, Calif.], Seal Press Distributed by Publishers Group West, 2003.

WO ROS

Rosenwasser, Penny. ***Hope into practice: Jewish women choosing justice despite our fears***. 2013.

YB KIN

Churnin, Nancy. ***Martin & Anne: the Kindred Spirits of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Anne Frank***. Berkeley, Creston Books, LLC, 2019.

YBS 220.95 MCK

McKissack, Pat. ***Let my people go : Bible stories told by a freeman of color to his daughter, Charlotte, in Charleston, South Carolina, 1806-16***. New York, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1998.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT

YF BEL

Bell, William. ***Zack***. New York, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1999.

Summary: The son of a Jewish father and black mother, high school senior Zack has never been allowed to meet his mother's family, but after doing a research project on a former slave, he travels from his home in Canada to Natchez, Mississippi to find his grandfather.

YF COD

Codell, Esmé Raji. ***Vive la Paris***. New York, Hyperion Books for Children, 2006.

Summary: Fifth-grader Paris learns some lessons about dealing with bullies of all kinds as she wonders how to stop a classmate from beating up her brother at school and as she learns about the Holocaust from her piano teacher, Mrs. Rosen.

YF CUR

Curtis, Christopher Paul. ***The Watsons go to Birmingham--1963***. New York, Delacorte Press, 1995.

Summary: The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

YF LEV

Leveen, Lois. ***The secrets of Mary Bowser***. New York, William Morrow, 2012.

Summary: "Based on the true story of Mary Bowser, a freed slave who returns to Virginia to spy on the Confederates, The secrets of Mary Bowser is the powerful story of a woman who must sacrifice her freedom to truly achieve it"--Provided by publisher.

YF MAT

Matas, Carol. ***The war within : a novel of the Civil War***. New York, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2001.

Summary: In 1862, after Union forces expel Hannah's family from Holly Springs, Mississippi, because they are Jews, Hannah reexamines her views regarding slavery and the war.

YF RAM

Ramsey, Calvin A. ***The green book : a play.***

Summary: "The green book is a play that sheds light on a time in America when Jim Crow and separate but equal was the law of the land. Travel and accommodations for African Americans was complex and full of uncertainties. Where a person or family could eat, sleep, buy gasoline or use restrooms was never without tension and in some cases was a life and death struggle"--Page 4 of cover.

YF WEI

Weissman, Elissa Brent. ***The length of a string.*** New York, NY, Dial Books For Young Readers, 2018.

Summary: Twelve-year-old Imani, the only black girl in Hebrew school, is preparing for her bat mitzvah and hoping to find her birthparents when she discovers the history of adoption in her own family through her great-grandma Anna's Holocaust-era diary.

YJH FIN

Finkelstein, Norman H. ***Forged in freedom : shaping the Jewish-American experience.*** Philadelphia, PA, Jewish Publication Society, 2002.

Summary: A history in words and photographs of the growth of the Jewish community in the United States and its contributions to American culture, politics, and economics in the twentieth century.

Content Notes:

- Reforming Judaism : the legacy of "The Treif Banquet" -- Labor and justice : the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire -- In unity there is strength : lessons from the Kehillah experiment -- Fighting bigotry : the lynching of Leo Frank -- Creating American culture : "The Jazz Singer," Gershwin and Greenberg -- From heder to Harvard : the lesson of Henrietta Szold -- Years of despair : the Riegner telegram -- American Jews and Israel : the Six-Day War and new

relationships -- Toward religious equality for woman and gays : the ordination of Sally Priesand -- Coming of age politically : the selection of Joseph Lieberman -- Facing the future : where are we? where are we headed?

YJH FIN

Finkelstein, Norman H. ***Heeding the call : Jewish voices in America's civil rights struggle***. Philadelphia, Jewish Publication Society, 1997.

Summary: Discusses the involvement of Jews in the African American struggle for civil rights in the United States, from the first settlers up to the 1990s.

YJH FIN

Finkelstein, Norman H. ***Schools of hope : the Rosenwald Schools of the American South***. HONESDALE, PA, HIGHLIGHTS, 2014.

YJH MEL

Meltzer, Milton. ***There comes a time : the struggle for Civil Rights***. New York, Random House, 2001.

Summary: Presents an overview of the events in African American history that culminated in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s and represented a striving for equal rights.

YJH SIL

Silver, Mitchell. ***The veterans of history : a young person's history of the Jews***. [Boston], Center for Jewish Culture and Social Justice, 2014.

YPE ALT

Altman, Linda Jacobs. ***The legend of Freedom Hill***. New York, Lee & Low Books, 2000.

Summary: During the California Gold Rush Rosabel, an African American, and Sophie, a Jew, team up and search for gold to buy Rosabel's mother her freedom from a slave catcher.

YPE LAW JF

Lawrence, Jacob. ***Harriet and the Promised Land***. New York, Windmill Books, 1968.

Summary: Brief biography in verse about Harriet Tubman and her dedicated efforts to lead her fellow slaves to freedom.

YPH CEL

Celano, Marianne. ***Something happened in our town: a child's story about racial injustice***. Washington, DC, Magination Press, 2018.

Summary: After discussing the police shooting of a local Black man with their families, Emma and Josh know how to treat a new student who looks and speaks differently than his classmates.

YPH HER

Herron, Carolivia. ***Always an Olivia : a remarkable family history***. Minneapolis, Kar-Ben Pub, 2007.

YPH KIN

King, Martin Luther. ***My daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*** New York, Amistad, 2013.

YS MIC

Michelson, Richard. ***As good as anybody : Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's amazing march toward freedom***. New York, A.A. Knopf, 2008.

YS MIL JF

Miller, William. ***Rent party jazz***. New York, Lee & Low Books, 2001.

Summary: When Sonny's mother loses her job in New Orleans during the Depression, Smilin' Jack, a jazz musician, tells him how to organize a rent party to raise the money they need.

YS RIN

Ringgold, Faith. ***Bonjour, Lonnie***. New York, N.Y, Hyperion, 1996.

Summary: An African-American Jewish boy traces his ancestry with the help of the Love Bird of Paris.

VIDEOS

DVD DOC ROS

Rosenwald /. [Waltham, Massachusetts], The National Center for Jewish Film.

Summary: "Rosenwald is the incredible story of how businessman and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald joined forces with Booker T. Washington and African American communities in the segregationist Jim Crow South to build more than 5000 schools. Inspired by the Jewish doctrine of 'tikkun olam,' repairing the world, and a deep concern over racial inequality in America, the Rosenwald Fund supported major African-American artists and intellectuals, like Marian Anderson, W.E.B. Du Bois, Langston Hughes, Jacob Lawrence, and Gordon Parks. This unprecedented historical partnership impacted American culture for generations and continues to inspire today."--from container.