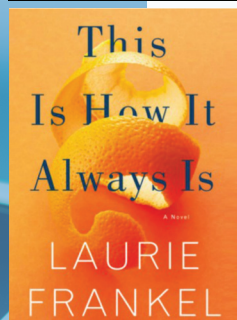
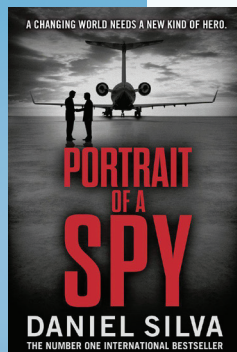
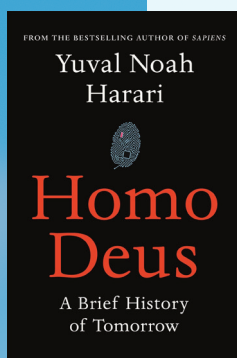
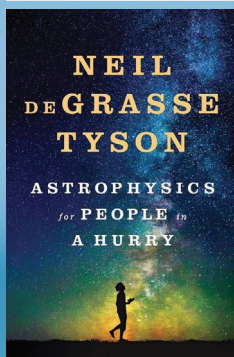
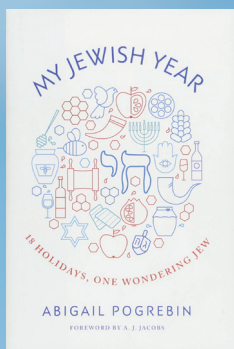


2018 Summer Reading List

Our clergy and educators once again have some terrific recommendations for your poolside reading enjoyment. You can bring any of these great books to the beach too but be careful with your tablet—we doubt your Kindle is sandproof.



Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback

The Zionist Ideas by Gil Troy

A fantastic sequel to Arthur Herzberg's classic.

Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow by Yuval Noah Harari

The author of *Sapiens* suggests what the future of our species holds.

Grant by Ron Chernow

Rabbi Ron Stern

God: A Human History by Reza Aslan

While you might be tempted to prefer novels for your summer reading, this book is surprisingly easy to read.

Aslan looks at the way that God has been portrayed through human eyes and how, throughout history, humans have projected their uniquely human characteristics onto God. It opens up the possibilities for understanding the term "God" in new ways and challenges the reader to reevaluate his or her own preconceptions as to what God is or isn't.

Rabbi Sari Laufer

Modern Loss, edited by Rebecca Soffer and Gabrielle Birkner

A frank and funny compilation about grief and loss. A worthwhile read for anyone who has grieved or will grieve, so everyone.

This Is How It Always Is by Laurie Frankel

A remarkable novel about identity, parenting, and unconditional love.

Rabbi Josh Knobel

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain

Astrophysics for People in a Hurry by Neil deGrasse Tyson

Rabbi David Woznica

Pirke Avot: A Modern Commentary on Jewish Ethics edited and translated by Leonard Kravitz and Kerry Olitzky.

Pirke Avot is a collection of teachings that focus on building character and shaping relationships. I recently read this commentary in preparation for a class I am teaching and found it clear and enjoyable.

Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine by Ann Applebaum

If you want an understanding of what the Soviet Union did to Ukraine in the early 1930s this volume, written by Pulitzer Prize winner Anne Applebaum, fits the bill. While not an easy read (I confess to skimming some of the chapters) it is well worth the effort.

Portrait of a Spy by Daniel Silva

Daniel Silva is perhaps my favorite contemporary novelist and I have enjoyed many of his thrillers. In this book, Gabriel Allon (master art restorer and spy) is haunted by his failure to stop a massacre. Allon, who is a fantastic character—former Mossad agent with a great personal story—is the main character throughout the series. Silva writes one book per year, released mid-summer—the one coming up is entitled *The Other Woman*.

Cantor Emma Lutz

The Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman

I was mesmerized by this novel based on the true love story of the famous French artist Camille Pissarro's Jewish parents. (For another great read by Hoffman about four women at Masada, check out *The Dovekeepers*).

Ashley Marx Director of Religious School

My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wandering Jew by Abigail Pogrebin

An insightful, witty, and poignant journey through the Jewish calendar—all from the perspective of a Reform Jew living in New York City.