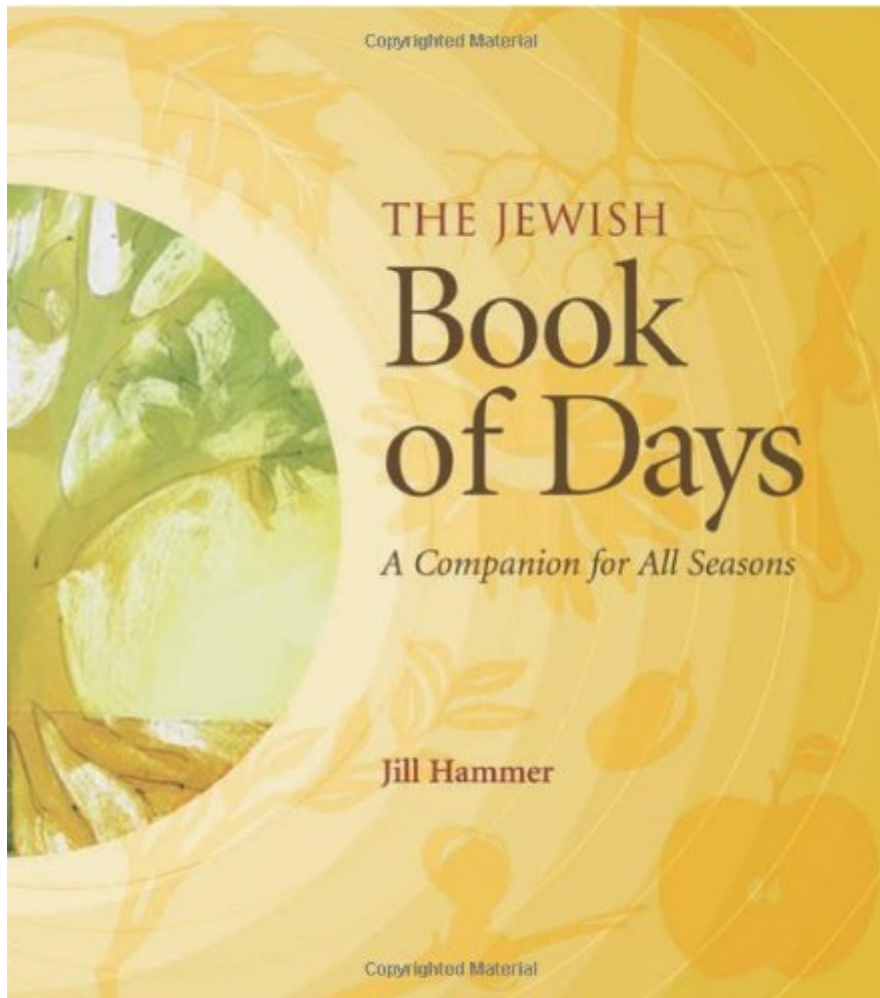




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The Jewish Book Of Days: A Companion For All Seasons



Synopsis

Finalist, 2006 NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD in the Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice category Throughout the ages, Jews have connected legends to particular days of the Hebrew calendar. Abraham's birth, the death of Rachel, and the creation of light are all tales that are linked to a specific day and season. The Jewish Book of Days invites readers to experience the connection between sacred story and nature's rhythms, through readings designed for each and every day of the year. These daily readings offer an opportunity to live in tune with the wisdom of the past while learning new truths about the times we live in today. Using the tree as its central metaphor, The Jewish Book of Days is divided into eight chapters of approximately forty-five days each. These sections represent the tree's stages of growth—seed, root, shoot, sap, bud, leaf, flower, and fruit—and also echo the natural cadences of each season. Each entry has three components: a biblical quote for the day; a midrash on the biblical quote or a Jewish tradition related to that day; and commentary relating the text to the cycles of the year. The author includes an introduction that analyzes the different months and seasons of the Hebrew calendar and explains the textual sources used throughout. Appendixes provide additional material for leap years, equinoxes, and solstices. A section on seasonal meditations offers a new way to approach the divine every day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book about a month ago. The book is inspirational. It has a message for every day as well as a quote from the Bible. I plan to send a copy of this book to my daughter who has recently converted to Judaism. I know she will also love it.

In the 26 days I've owned this book, I've been bowled over 26 times by Rabbi Hammer's daily teachings. They have touched me personally and often educated me. Jill Hammer, clearly very knowledgeable in Jewish texts and tradition, reveals how Judaism embraces perspectives on nature and women that we might not credit Judaism with. I've always tried to keep track of the cycles of the moon and seasons at the same time I keep track of the Jewish year, but it took this insightful, well-educated woman to unite the two in a meaningful and Jewish way. Thank you, Rabbi Hammer! The introductory sections of the book are informative, and each day, in addition to her own teaching, Rabbi Hammer includes one quote from Tanach (Bible) and one quote from Talmud, Rashi, or other Jewish texts. I expect to turn to this book daily for the next year (and probably years to come), to learn and to deepen my spiritual life. I can't recommend this volume highly enough. **BUY YOURSELF THIS BOOK!** (Just a note: it's bound well, and under the pretty dust-jacket, the brown and gold cover would look really nice next to any Metsudah siddurs or machzors you might own.)

This book is great for those who just have a minute or two to read here and there. The stories are short and they provide easy documentation of where they got their information about each story (ex: scripture, book chapter and verse). I find these stories informative, accurate and peaceful.

This is a soulful, thoughtful, educational and inspirational volume that provides great insights and guidance for each day and season of the year from a Jewish perspective.

Though I don't read it consistently, it's always nice to have a guidebook to the Jewish calendar on my shelf, for any time I want to tune in to the spiritual energy of the day.

A wonderful daily reminder of living a Jewish Life. I try to read each entry for each day. I am so glad to have the book.

I bought four copies of this book to give to friends who want to know more about Judaism, without being either too folksy or legalistic. This book is a fabulous way to introduce anyone into the many realms of Jewish thought.

It is pure poetry - pleasing to the eye, the ear, the heart, and the mind. Wonderful and appropriate readings for every day of every year! Easily one of my favorites.

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