



Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Memorial
Deborah Library

Resources for Interfaith Families

This is a bibliography of just some of the books in our Library
on how to meet the challenges of an interfaith marriage.
Our new Interfaith Bookshelf has these and other titles. Stop by and browse through it!

Interfaith Marriage

Cowan, Paul. *Mixed blessings : marriage between Jews and Christians*. Doubleday, 1987.
652.2 Cowan

Now a classic on marriage between Jews and Christians, this book provides a candid assessment of the challenges of blending two religions in one family.

Cox, Harvey Gallagher. *Common Prayers : Faith, family and a Christian's journey through the Jewish year*. Houghton Mifflin, 2001.

290 Cox

Arranged as a journey through the Jewish year, a Christian theological shares his thoughts on the spiritual riches of Judaism.

Friedland, Ronnie, ed. *The guide to Jewish interfaith family life: An InterfaithFamily.com handbook*. Jewish Lights, 2001.

S Friedland

A supportive resource full of information on holding an interfaith wedding, communicating in interfaith relationships, choosing a religious identity for your children, and how to deal with the December dilemma.

Olitzky, Kerry M. *Making a successful Jewish interfaith marriage: the Jewish Outreach Institute guide to opportunities, challenges and resources*. Jewish Lights, 2003.

652.2 Olitzky

Guides interfaith couples at every stage of their relationship, from dating to marriage, and how to deal with holidays and life-cycle events.

Petsonk, Judy and Remsen, Jim, et al. *The Intermarriage handbook : A guide for Jews & Christians*. New York: Morrow, 1991.

652.2 Petsonk

When a Jew marries a Christian, sometimes families, rabbis, ministers, and holidays present turmoil and confusion. This comprehensive, immensely practical self-help book for interfaith households offers suggestions for a relationship at any stage.

Life Cycle Events

Marriage

Diamant, Anita. *The New Jewish Wedding*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1986.

652 Diamant

This book is sensitive to the concerns of interfaith couples.

Lerner, Devon A. *Celebrating Interfaith Marriages : Creating Your Jewish/Christian Ceremony*. New York: Owl, 1999.

652.2 Lerner

A comprehensive wedding guide specifically for the Jewish/Christian couple who want to honor both religious traditions in their service, vows, and readings.

Raising children

Gruzen, Lee F. *Raising your Jewish/Christian child : How interfaith parents can give children the best of both of their heritages*. Newmarket Press, 2001.

S Gruzen

A discussion of the challenges and rewards of blending both Jewish and Christian faiths into the lives of children of interfaith marriages.

King, Andrea. *If I'm Jewish and you're Christian, what are the kids? : a parenting guide for interfaith families*. UAHC, 1993.

S King

Explores issues that interfaith families must make in choosing a religious identity for their children.

Levin, Sunie. *Mingled roots : a guide for Jewish grandparents of interfaith grandchildren*. B'nai B'rith Women, 1991.

652.2 Levin

Discusses how Jewish grandparents can play an important role in imparting Jewish values to their interfaith grandchildren without being intrusive.

Wolpe, David J. *Teaching your children about God : A modern Jewish approach*. Henry Holt, 1993.

136.1 Wolpe

Provides advice to parents on giving their children spiritual guidance.

B'nai Mitzvah

Salkin, Rabbi Jeffrey K. *Putting God on the Guest List*. Woodstock: Jewish Lights Publishing, 1993.

222.3 Salkin

This book explains the spirituality and meaning of the Bar Mitzvah, the origin of the ceremony, and suggests way to incorporate non-Jewish family members into the ceremony.

Death

Diamant, Anita. *Saying Kaddish: How to Comfort the Dying, Bury the Dead, and Mourn as a Jew*. New York: Schocken, 1998.

222.5 Diamant

The book is sensitive to the needs of interfaith couples.

Learning More About Judaism

Kushner, Harold S. *To life! A celebration of Jewish being and thinking*. Little, Brown, 1993.

100 Kushner

A great book for both Jews and non-Jews to understand the basic tenets of Judaism.

Kushner, Lawrence. *Jewish spirituality : A brief introduction for Christians*. Jewish Lights, 2001.

Guides Christians through the rich wisdom of Jewish spirituality.

Lotker, Mike. *A Christian's guide to Judaism*. Paulist Press, 2004

220 Lotker

An excellent resource for interfaith couples, Jews-by-choice and their family members.

Perelson, Ruth. *An invitation to Shabbat : a beginner's guide to weekly celebration*. UAHC, 1997.

237 Perelson

Shabbat is one of the most important holidays in Judaism. This book provides an understanding of the basics celebrating it. Includes a CD with Shabbat music.

Weiss, Vikki. *What to do when you're dating a Jew : Everything you need to know from matzah balls to marriage*. Three Rivers Press, 2000.

652 Weiss

A book for the non-Jewish partner - this will enlighten you on all things Jewish, and teach you how to be more at ease in situations that are culturally different from yours.

Conversion/Choosing Judaism

Berkowitz, Rabbi Allan L., and Moskovitz, Patti. *Embracing the Covenant*. Jewish Lights Publishing, 1996.

203.85 Berkowitz

Explores the deep appeal of the Jewish faith, the converts' journeys into Jewish traditions, and the ways Judaism has changed their lives and the lives of those around them.

Diamant, Anita. *Choosing a Jewish Life: A Handbook for People Converting to Judaism and for Their Family and Friends*. New York: Schocken, 1977.

203.8 Diamant

In a gentle, respectful way, Diamant offers information and guidance for those journeying to conversion. She addresses "how to" issues, including selecting a rabbi and participating in conversion celebrations, and deals with personal issues faced by converts.

Fink, Nan. *Stranger in Our Midst*. New York: Basic Books, 1997.

203.85 Fink

Written by a convert to Judaism, the book describes the difficulties she faced, both inside and outside the Jewish community.

Kukoff, Lydia. *Choosing Judaism*. UAHC Press, 1981.

203.8 Kukoff

Shares the experiences of those who converted.

For Children

Blume, Judy. *Are you there God? It's me, Margaret*. Bradbury, 1970.

jhF Blume

A classic young adult novel that explores the issues children face in an interfaith marriage.

Brichto, Mira Pollack. *The God around us: A child's garden of prayer*. UAHC, 1999.

jj Prayer

Older, Effin. *My two grandmothers*. Harcourt, 2000.

Oversize juv Family Older

Lily celebrates Hanukkah with one of her grandmothers and Christmas with the other.

Kushner, Lawrence. *Because nothing looks like God*. Jewish Lights Publishing, 2000.

jj Prayer Kushner

For More Information

Fishman, Sylvia Barack. *Double or nothing? : Jewish families and mixed marriage*. Brandeis, 2004.

652.2 Fishman

A study of the current statistics and issues facing interfaith marriage.

Glaser, Gabrielle. *Strangers to the tribe : Portraits of interfaith marriage*. Houghton Mifflin, 1997.

652.2 Glaser

Portrays eleven Jewish-Gentile couples and their families and the many ways they have found to navigate their differences.

Magida, Arthur. *How to be a perfect stranger : a guide to etiquette in other people's religious ceremonies*. Jewish Lights Publishing, 1996-1997.

A two volume set that provides the rituals and celebrations of the major religions in America.