

**From:** [Cliff Miller](#)  
**To:** [Covid Archive](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Gleaning new perspectives from Jewish women's stories  
**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:41:22 AM

Elizabeth, JWA is not part of the Conservative Movement, but I thought you could gain inspiration from some of what they wrote. Best, CBM

**From:** Judith Rosenbaum <info@jwa.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:10 PM  
**To:** Cliff Miller <CLMILLER@J TSA.EDU>  
**Subject:** Gleaning new perspectives from Jewish women's stories

# Jewish Women's Archive { NEWSLETTER

October 2020



Dear friend,

Last week, a brief but powerful storm blew the roof off of our sukkah, cracking a table and smashing the string lights. It felt a little too on the nose for a year when we hardly needed to sit in a hut to be reminded of our vulnerability. But when the storm had passed, I righted the listing walls and swept up the glass, and we enjoyed a few more meals in the (now extra ventilated) sukkah.

In this challenging moment, when time itself seems to have lost its mooring without the markers and routines that used to distinguish one day or week from the next, we need external structures more than ever. This week, we begin the cycle of the Torah again, retracing our steps from the chaos that preceded creation to the arrival on the shores of the promised land. It's both a fresh start and a revisiting of the past, with the hope that this year we learn better and do better.

It's a new year, but we bring our stories with us, telling and retelling them, illuminated by new perspectives. This month, we remember [Regina Jonas](#), the first woman ordained as a rabbi, who was murdered in Auschwitz in 1944 and whose *yahrzeit* JWA helps commemorate on Shabbat Bereishit, this coming Saturday. We also remember an innovator we lost more recently—artist [Elsa Dorfman](#), who passed away in May. And on the podcast, we speak with author [Gail Carson Levine](#), whose new young adult novel mines her own family roots in the Spanish Inquisition, telling the story through the eyes of a young girl.

Guided by history and our visions for the future, we forge ahead, making history as we go. We are delighted to introduce JWA's new [Twersky Education Fellow](#), who works to engage educators and learners of all ages in the richness of Jewish women's stories. There are many ways to learn from Jewish women, whether through JWA's virtual history courses, communal celebrations of Jewish women's civic power, or the power of storytelling. I hope you will join us.

Onward,



Judith Rosenbaum  
Chief Executive Officer

*Image: Deborah Putnoi, Remembering Anne Jackson, 1997, mixed media on wood, for JWA's Women Whose Lives Span the Century project*



### [Commemorating Regina Jonas](#)

Regina Jonas made history in Germany in 1935 when she became the first woman ordained as a rabbi. After her death at the hands of the Nazis, she was almost forgotten. With the help of JWA's resources, Regina Jonas' extraordinary story is remembered and inspires us today.



### [We Remember Elsa Dorfman](#)

We reflect on the life of photographer Elsa Dorfman, whose work accompanied JWA's first oral history project, *Women Whose Lives Span the Century*. Pamela S. Paternoster writes in Elsa's memory, "To the public she was an icon who shared her art, and to her friends she was someone who could be counted on to share her heart."



### [Meet JWA's Twersky Education Fellow](#)

Lucy Marshall is a Jewish educator, grassroots organizer, youth worker, and facilitator based in Minneapolis. She's pursuing her MSW at the University of Minnesota and MA in Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary. As JWA's Twersky Fellow, Lucy will help increase access to JWA's education materials. Welcome, Lucy!

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### [New on the Podcast](#)

Listen to JWA's recent interview with best-selling author Gail Carson Levine. Gail describes what inspired and motivated her new book, *A Ceiling Made of Eggshells*, which is set in the decade leading up to the Spanish expulsion of the Jews.



### [Ma'yan Stories](#)

JWA is helping to document the history of Ma'yan, the Jewish Women's Project of the JCC Manhattan that operated from 1993 until 2017. If you have a story about Ma'yan's innovative Jewish feminist programming, groundbreaking research, or social justice work, share it with us using the Story Aperture app.



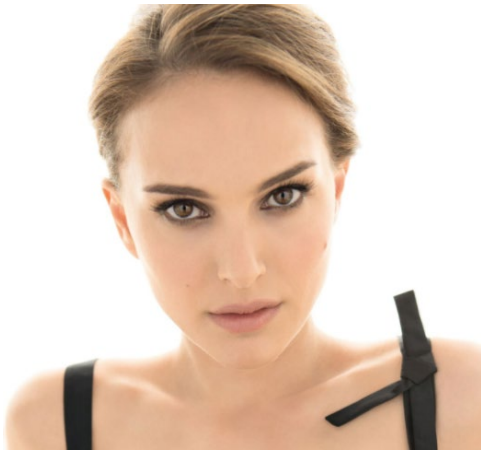
### [Jewish Women Vote](#)

JWA co-sponsors a special event celebrating voting! Join special guests and Jewish women and allies across America this Friday as we welcome Shabbat and get excited to vote in the approaching 2020 election.

**Friday, October 16, 3:30 p.m. ET**  
[RSVP today](#)

### [Natalie Portman at Sixth & I](#)

In *Natalie Portman's Fables*, the Academy Award-winning actress, director, producer,



and activist retells three classic fables and imbues them with empathy, inclusivity, and humor. Portman speaks with actress Eva Longoria about her motivations for writing the book and the power of storytelling to change minds.

**Tuesday, October 20, 7:30 p.m. ET**  
[Tickets](#) from Sixth & I

Jewish Women's Archive | [jwa.org](http://jwa.org)



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Jewish Women's Archive | One Harvard Street, Suite 200, Brookline, MA 02445

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