

Seek My Face – A Jewish Mystical Theology by Arthur Green.
Jewish Lights Publishing, 2003.

Yet again, with the re-issue of Seek My Face, Arthur Green has produced a marvellously spiritual and intellectually uplifting book that will immeasurably enhance the lives of those who wish to engage with the world on the basis of a Jewish agenda, while at the same time deepening their Jewish awareness and knowledge.

Green considers a wide range of subjects, under four overall headings, God and the Ways of Being, Creation, Revelation and Redemption linked to the Tetragrammaton, the four letter name of God; the text is able supported by excellent notes offering suggestions for further reading as well as ideas for contemplation and discussion. I highly recommend this work.

Pray Tell – A Hadassah Guide to Jewish Prayer by Rabbi Jules Harlow and others. Jewish Lights Publishing, 2003.

Jules Harlow is one of the liturgical luminaries of American Jewry, though in recent years he has found himself at odds with some developments, particularly those driven by a feminist critique; nevertheless, his eminence led the women's organisation Hadassah to ask him to edit an analysis and commentary on the traditional liturgy, and this, aided by other rabbis and scholars from across the spectrum, he has done to excellent effect.

The book is divided into two units: the first is a commentary on the various sections of the synagogue service, with questions for further study and reflection, the second a series of essays on specific Jewish women's issues connected with liturgy as well as the use of poetry as prayer and the power of prayer to combat evil and suffering.

This is a rich source of study, as well as being an excellent provider of material for the discussion of issues that either should or do concern our spiritual and liturgical lives.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh