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What is your favorite Jewish book?

Response by Rabbi Peter Schweitzer

My favorite Jewish book is *Judaism Beyond God* by Rabbi Sherwin Wine, the founder of Humanistic Judaism. This work is of exceptional importance for secular and cultural Jews. Rather than opt out because of alienation from observances and beliefs that don't speak to them, Rabbi Wine offers a way back in.

Rabbi Wine understood that culturally affiliated Jews, who account for half the Jewish population, need a way to form communities and celebrate their Jewish identity with language and practices that are consistent with secular values. He validates that one can be Jewish without holding a belief in a providential deity.

Last summer, tragically, Rabbi Wine, my teacher and friend, was killed in a terrible car accident. In the face of this tragedy, we can turn to another of his works, *Staying Sane in a Crazy World*, for guidance. It addresses realistically and honestly the unfairness and injustice of life. Even in death, Rabbi Wine continues to teach and comfort us.