A Wild Faith – Jewish Ways into Wilderness, Wilderness Ways into Judaism by Rabbi Mike Comins.

Healing and the Jewish Imagination – Spiritual and Practical perspectives on Judaism and Health. Edited by Rabbi William Cutter, PhD.

Jews and Judaism in the 21st Century – Human Responsibility, the Presence of God, and the Future of the Covenant. Edited by Rabbi Edward Feinstein.

All published by Jewish Lights Publishing 2007.

A Wild Faith is a book written by a rabbi who is passionate about the natural world for Jews who share that passion; and we know we are many! The book is divided into fifteen sections with four appendices; it is the sort of book that can be read and assimilated before venturing into the great outdoors, or packed in a rucksack for contemplation on the way. It has texts, exercises and prayers as well as examples of sound scholarship. This is a worthy companion to Jewish Lights' other excellent environmental publications.

Healing and the Jewish Imagination brings together a range of Jewish contributors who investigate and comment on the interface between Judaism and Health under five specific headings; The Importance of the Individual in Jewish Thought and Writing, Health and Healing among the Mystics, Hope and the Hebrew Bible, From Disability to Enablement, Overcoming Stigma and Jewish Bioethics in Story and Law. There is an excellent introduction by Rabbi Cutter, Director of the Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health, setting the subject and its contributors in context, and conclusions by Rabbi David Ruderman, Professor of Modern Jewish history at the University of Pennsylvania, who uses some historical figures to show the long-standing interrelationship between Judaism and Medicine. This is a worthy, learned contribution to the bibliography of Healing and will find favour with many rabbis who favour healing rituals and lay people who may benefit from them once they realise how securely founded they are in our Jewish heritage.

Jews and Judaism in the 21st Century brings five of the 20th/21st centuries' greatest rabbis together in conversation about a range of pressing Jewish issues, divided into two sections – How have you changed? How have we changed? And The Covenant, the Community, and the Future. The fact that into one volume have been gathered the thoughts of David Ellenson, David Hartman, Yitz Greenberg, Harold Kushner and Harold M. Schulweis is indication enough of the excellence of its contents. This is a book to savour and to study, as well as being the likely springboard for a thousand debates and conversations!

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh