

**JEWISH BOOK MONTH 2009**  
**RECENT RESOURCES FOR ADULTS**  
A publication of  
**Association of Jewish Libraries**  
**Greater Cleveland Chapter**

**FICTION**

Astaire, Libi. *Disappearing Dowry*. (Zahav Press, 2009) In 1810 London, a wealthy Jewish man loses his livelihood and his family's remaining cash is stolen shortly before their daughter's wedding. The mystery is solved with the help of an unlikely benefactor.

Cameron, Michelle. *The Fruit of Her Hands: The Story of Shira of Ashkenaz*. (Pocket 2009) As anti-Semitism in Europe increases, the wife of the renowned 13<sup>th</sup> century Jewish scholar Meir ben Baruch of Rothenberg struggles to preserve her religious tradition.

Diamant, Anita. *Day After Night: A Novel*. (Scribner, 2009) Four young female Holocaust survivors must evade the British attempt to send them back to Europe. Based on a true story.

Hareven, Gail. *The Confessions of Noa Weber*. (Melville House, 2009) Noa, a mystery writer, and Alek marry so that Noa may evade military service in Israel. Noa's infatuation with Alek survives their divorce even after Alek has moved back to Russia.

Rosnay, Tatiana de. *Sarah's Key*. (Macmillan, 1007) Julia Jarmond, an American-born reporter living in Paris learns that her in-laws' apartment was formerly occupied by Jews who were deported to Auschwitz.

Tropper, Jonathan. (Penguin, 2009) *This is Where I Leave You*. A laugh-out-loud novel about a dysfunctional family that comes together to sit *shivah* for their father/grandfather.

**NON-FICTION**

Bernstein, Harry. *The Dream: A Memoir*. (Random House, 2009) The 98-year-old author tells about his family's emigration from England to the U.S. in 1922 and the disappointments they experienced in their new country.

Brenner, Hannelore. *The Girls of Room 28: Friendship, Hope, and Survival in Theresienstadt*. (Schocken, 2009) A small group of survivors from Theresienstadt hold a reunion every year at a Czech resort. The author interviewed ten of them and describes the challenges, friendships and hardships they endured in their daily lives in the camp.

Cesarani, David. *Major Farran's Hat: The Untold Story of the Struggle to Establish a Jewish State*. (De Capo Press, 2009) This complicated history tells the story of the British Mandate in Palestine from the point of view of the British.

Cohen, Rich. *Israel is Real: An Obsessive Quest to Understand the Jewish Nation and its History*. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2009) A chronological tour of Jewish history from the first century to the 2004 Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, told through interesting biographies.

Gilbert-Lurie, Leslie and Rita Lurie. *Bending Toward the Sun*. (HarperCollins, 2009) Rita Lurie was five years old when her family evaded the Nazis and hid for two miserable years in the attic of a Polish farmhouse. Lurie's daughter tells how she was affected by her mother's experience.

Gordis, Daniel. *Saving Israel*. (Wiley, 2009) In a passionate argument, Gordis asserts that Israel's existence is more important than peace.

Gordon, Charlotte. *The Woman Who Named God: Abraham's Dilemma and the Birth of Three Faiths*. (Little, Brown & Co.) The biblical story of Abraham and his wives, Sarah and Hagar, is the focus of this book. Gordon looks at the jealousy, envy, despair and passion in their stories.

Prose, Francine. *Anne Frank: The Book, the Life, the Afterlife*. (HarperCollins, 2009) Francine Prose examines Anne Frank's diary as literature, not merely as a personal account of her family's experiences.

Ross, Dennis and David Makovsky. *Myths, Illusions & Peace: Finding a New Direction for America in the Middle East*. (Viking, 2009) The authors note some of the assumptions and misguided policies that have hampered America's attempts to broker a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Ross and Makovsky then present their own ideas for furthering the peace process.

Sax, David. *Save the Deli: In Search of Perfect Pastrami, Crusty Rye, and the Heart of Jewish Delicatessens*. (Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, 2009) A delightful travelogue of Jewish delicatessens, their owners, customers and local histories.

## **WEBSITES**

**American Jewish World Service.** [http://ajws.org/what\\_we\\_do/education/](http://ajws.org/what_we_do/education/)

A source for Torah commentaries, articles, and Jewish educational resources relating to social justice and global issues.

**Center for Jewish History.** <http://www.cjh.org>

A source that compiles information relating to programs, exhibitions, resources and other information offered by five Jewish institutions: American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

**Internet Jewish History Sourcebook.**

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/jewishsbok.html> A collection of public domain and copy-permitted historical texts for educational use.

**Israel21c-The Reality of Daily Life in Israel.** <http://www.israel21c.org> Videos of news briefs illuminate Israeli achievements in health, technology, culture and democracy.

**Jewish Women's Archive.** <http://jwa.org/> An extensive collection of material on the history of American Jewish women with an encyclopedia of famous Jewish women.

**On1Foot.org.** <http://www.on1foot.org/>

An open-source online database of Jewish texts on social justice.

## **DVDS**

***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas.*** 94 min. Rated PG-13. Bruno, the 8-year-old son of an Auschwitz commandant, ventures into the woods and meets a young Jewish boy who is a prisoner in the concentration camp. An unlikely friendship develops.

***Defiance.*** 136 min. Rated R. An outstanding feature film based on the true story of the Bielski brothers. During the Holocaust, the brothers escaped into the forests of Eastern Europe and organized the Jewish partisan resistance fighters against the Nazis.

***God on Trial.*** 86 min. While waiting to learn if they will be killed or put to work, prisoners at Auschwitz hold a rabbinical court putting God on trial for the atrocities of the Holocaust.

***Jellyfish (Meduzot).*** 78 min. Hebrew with English subtitles. Stories of the struggles of three women in Tel Aviv. Batya is a lonely waitress, Keren is a newlywed, and Joy is a Filipina migrant worker trying to support her son back home.

***Live and Become.*** 143 min. Hebrew with English subtitles. During the 1984 Operation Moses airlift from Ethiopia, a Christian woman sneaks her son onto the plane. He is adopted into a Jewish Israeli family.

***My Father My Lord.*** 72 min. Hebrew with English subtitles. A pious, Hasidic elder rarely speaks to his only son except about prayer. A vacation at the Dead Sea ends in a biblically and dramatically tragic climax. A parable of Abraham and the binding of his son Isaac.

***Noodle.*** 90 min. Hebrew with English subtitles. An El Al flight attendant's life is turned upside down by an abandoned Chinese boy whose migrant working mother is trying to support her son back home.

***Tehilim.*** 95 min. Hebrew with English subtitles. In Jerusalem, Eli, a middle-aged father and husband, unaccountably vanishes after a car accident. His wife, Alma, navigates a bureaucratic maze of social services and paperwork, and the elder son, Menachem, has his faith shaken.

***Waltz with Bashir.*** 90 min. Hebrew with English subtitles. Rated R. An animated film in which Ari Folman, the director, meets a friend with whom he served in the first Lebanon War. His friend is troubled by nightmares from the conflict. However, Folman cannot recall anything from the war.

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