

TEMPLE ISRAEL ADULT BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

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August 2006

2006/2007

Blum, Jenna. *Those Who Save Us.* Orlando: Harcourt, 2004. ISBN: 0156031663. \$14.00

Driven by the guilt of her heritage, Trudy, a professor of German history, begins investigating the past and finally unearths the heartbreaking truth of her mother's life.

Foer, Jonathan Safran. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005. ISBN: 0618711651. \$13.95

Oskar Schell, the nine-year-old son of a man killed in the World Trade Center attacks, searches the five boroughs of New York City for a lock that fits a black key his father left behind. By the author of *Everything is Illuminated*.

Lederman, Amy Hirshberg. *To Life! Jewish Reflections on Everyday Living.* Tucson, AZ: Aliyah Publishing, 2004. ISBN: 097614560X. \$17.95

A heart-warming collection of stories about life which speak to the heart of any reader who wants to discover the richness and relevancy of Jewish wisdom in today's world.

Lelyveld, Joseph. *Omaha Blues: A Memory Loop.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. ISBN: 0312425104. \$14.00

The son of a Cleveland rabbi dives into his family history, presenting a candid but compassionate portrayal of his father, who walks a tenuous line between his politics and his public role as a clergyman, and his mother, a Shakespearean scholar whose independence causes strife in the family.

Liebrecht, Savyon. *Good Place for the Night: Stories.* New York: WW Norton & Company, 2006. ISBN: 0892553200. \$14.00

A collection of seven thematically linked stories about Israelis in love and in trouble far away from home includes the tales of a woman living in Hiroshima who becomes involved in a love triangle, and an Israeli journalist in Munich who covers the trial of a Nazi war criminal.

Megged, Aharon. *Foiglmán.* New Milford, CT: Toby Press, 2003. ISBN: 159264032X. \$19.95

First published in Israel in 1987, this is the story of Shmuel Foiglmán, a Holocaust survivor and a poet living in Paris, and Zvi Arbel, a history professor in Tel Aviv.

Oz, Amos. *A Tale of Love and Darkness.* Orlando: Harcourt, 2004. ISBN: 015603252X. \$16.00

A life story of the award-winning author recounts his boyhood in war-torn Jerusalem of the 1940s and 1950s, his mother's tragic suicide when he was twelve, his decision to join a kibbutz and change his name, and his participation in Israel's political upheavals.

Suberman, Stella. *The Jew Store.* Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 1998. ISBN: 1565123301. \$13.95

The biography of Aaron Bronson, a small store owner in Concordia, Tennessee in the 1920's, written by his daughter.

Suberman, Stella. *When It Was Our War.* Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 2003. ISBN: 1565124030. \$23.95

In the sequel to *The Jew Store*, Suberman carries her autobiography through World War II and marriage to Jack Suberman, her husband for 60 years.

Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. New York: Random House Children's Books, 2006. ISBN: 0375831002. \$16.95

Living with a foster family in Germany during World War II, a young girl struggles to survive her day-to-day trials through stealing anything she can get her hands on, but when she discovers the beauty of literature, she realizes that she has been blessed with a gift that must be shared with others, including the Jewish man hiding in the basement.

2005/2006

Feldman, Ellen. *The Boy Who Loved Anne Frank*. New York: Norton, 2005. ISBN: 0393059448. \$23.95
A fictionalized account of the post-war life of Peter, who hid in the secret annex with Anne Frank and her family, follows his survival of the Holocaust, his relocation to America, and his memories upon the publication of Anne's diary.

Freedman, Samuel. *Who She Was: My Search For My Mother's Life*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005. ISBN: 0743227352. \$25.00

Documents the author's efforts to learn about his mother's life in the years after her death, a personal quest during which he rediscovered the Jewish immigrant Bronx of the 1930's and 1940's and his grandparent's impact on his mother's dreams to flee her home and acquire an education.

Lansky, Aaron. *Outwitting History: The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books*. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2004. ISBN: 1565125134. \$13.95

The author explains how he founded the National Yiddish Book Center, and describes the worldwide effort he currently leads to collect unwanted Yiddish books and save the Yiddish language from extinction.

Lebrecht, Norman. *The Song of Names*. New York: Anchor Books, 2004. ISBN: 1400034892. \$14.00

The close friendship between Martin Simmonds and violin prodigy Dovidl Rappoport, two Jewish boys living in London between the 1930s and the end of World War II, is threatened by the unexpected disappearance of Dovidl on the eve of his debut performance.

Kohn, Rebecca. *The Gilded Chamber: A Novel of Queen Esther*. New York: Rugged Land, 2004. ISBN: 0143035339. \$14.00

A retelling of the life of the Jewish heroine follows the future queen from her youth as an orphan, her selection as the wife of a powerful Persian king, and the sacrifices she makes in order to save her people from annihilation.

Mirvis, Tova. *The Outside World*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004. ISBN: 1400075289. \$13.00

Follows the courtship and marriage of Bryan and Tzippy – Bryan astonishes his family by rejecting their way of life in favor of a strict Orthodox lifestyle while Tzippy longs to escape the expectations of familial obligation. By the author of the best-selling *Ladies Auxiliary*.

Nattel, Lilian. *The Singing Fire*. New York: Scribner, 2004. ISBN: 0743249674. \$15.00

Arriving in the bustling laneways of London's Jewish ghetto, Nehama escapes a life of prostitution and assists pregnant fellow runaway Emilia, whose daughter becomes a nexus in the lives of both women as they struggle to find meaning in their lives.

Traig, Jennifer. *Devil in the Details: Scenes from an Obsessive Girlhood.* New York: Little, Brown, 2004. ISBN: 031601074X. \$14.95

A woman who suffered from an undiagnosed obsessive-compulsive disorder in her childhood recounts how her overzealous drive for perfection and incessant hand-washing rituals compromised her daily life and strained her relationship with her good-natured parents.

2004/2005

Epstein, Joseph. *Fabulous Small Jews.* New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2003. ISBN: 0618446583. \$13.00

Beautifully written, Epstein's graceful vignettes capture a variety of people at crucial moments of understanding, coping with the indignities of aging, unexpected news, family heartbreak, or making sense of life's messy truths.

Kirshenbaum, Binnie. *Hester Among the Ruins.* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2002. ISBN: 015602750X. \$14.00

A darkly comic novel about love in the shadows of history. Born in New York in 1963, historian Hester Rosenfeld, very American and marginally Jewish, goes to Munich to research the life of Heinrich Falk and becomes his mistress.

Komie, Lowell. *The Last Jewish Shortstop in America.* Chicago: Swordfish, 1997. ISBN: 0964195712. \$12.95

David Epstein has issues: he's divorced, unemployed, behind on child support and alimony, and creditors are crawling up his *tuches*. But he has an idea that might make everything right - a Hall of Fame for Jewish sports heroes, housed in a nine-story tall, glass Star of David, glowing in a blue Chagall-like light on the side of a suburban Chicago highway.

Oates, Joyce Carol. *The Tattooed Girl.* New York: Ecco, 2003. ISBN: 006053107X. \$13.95

When a reclusive, 38-year-old writer hires a near-illiterate young woman as an assistant at his suburban home in Carmel Heights, near Rochester, NY, he's unaware that a vehement anti-Semitism seethes beneath her tattoo-branded exterior.

Ravel, Edeet. *Ten Thousand Lovers.* New York: Perennial Press, 2003. ISBN: 0060565624. \$12.95

A recent immigrant to Israel, Lily, a young student, finds her life turned upside down when she falls in love with Ami, a handsome former actor and Israeli army interrogator, as the horrors of his work affect their relationship.

Von Drehle, David. *Triangle: The Fire that Changed America.* Atlantic Monthly Press, 2003. ISBN: 080214151X. \$14.00 (September 2004)

Describes the devastating 1911 fire that destroyed the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York's Greenwich Village, the deaths of 146 workers in the fire, the Jewish and Italian immigrants, mostly women, who made up the majority of the victims, and the implications of the catastrophe on twentieth-century politics and labor relations.

Wolff, Tobias. *Old School.* New York: Random House, 2003. ISBN: 0375701494. \$12.00 (September 2004)

During his senior year at an elite New England prep school, a young man who had struggled to find it with his contemporaries finds his life unraveling thanks to the school's obsession with literary figures and their work during a visit from an author for whose blessing a young writer would do almost anything.

Wolitzer, Meg. *Wife: A Novel*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003. ISBN: 0743456661. \$12.00

On the eve of her husband's receipt of a prestigious literary award, Joan Castleman, who has put her own writing ambitions on hold to support her husband, evaluates her choices and decides to end the marriage.

2003/2004

Chefitz, Mitchell. *The Seventh Telling*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2001. ISBN: 0312289227. \$14.95

A love story based on the mysticism of the Cabala follows Stephanie and Sidney on their exploration of the "four worlds" of Jewish mysticism.

Horn, Dara. *In the Image*. New York: Norton, 2002. ISBN: 0393325261. \$13.95

Follows Leora through the death of a friend in high school and on to college, career, and falling in love, while simultaneously tracing the story of Bill Landsmann, her lost friend's grandfather, back to Amsterdam, Austria, and New York's Lower East Side.

Miller, Risa. *Welcome to Heavenly Heights*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2003. ISBN: 0312326157. \$12.95

Chronicles the lives of a group of Americans, newly immigrated to Israel with a variety of baggage—emotional as well as material. Religiously observant Jews, they have come to settle not in Jerusalem proper but in a West Bank settlement called Heavenly Heights.

Newman, Leslea. *A Letter to Harvey Milk: Short Stories*. Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1988. ISBN: 0932379435. \$9.95

These nine stories focus on an array of Jewish and lesbian concerns with a refreshing candor and lack of self-consciousness. (Discussion with the author)

Nuland, Sherwin B. *Lost in America: A Journey with My Father*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003. ISBN: 0375727221. \$12.00

In his late 30s and early 40s, National Book Award winner Nuland was gripped by a depression so unyielding to treatment he almost underwent a lobotomy. But as haunting as this beginning of Nuland's memoir is, it's eclipsed in power by the story he tells of his relationship with his father, an aging Jewish immigrant whose life was a series of family tragedies and illness.

Pogrebin, Letty Cottin. *Three Daughters*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002. ISBN: 0142003484. \$14.00

Driven by a legacy of lies, the shame of their own imperfections, and impending chaos in each of their well-ordered married lives, the three Wasserman daughters struggle with themselves and one another to break their parents' silence and understand their past.

Shapiro, Dani. *Family History*. New York: Knopf, 2003. ISBN: 0375415475. \$23.00 (HC)

A baby is accidentally injured while being held by his sister, and the ensuing cover-up eventually tears the family apart.

Smith, Zadie. *The Autograph Man*. New York: Random House, 2002. ISBN: 037570387X. \$14.00

Alex-Li Tandem sells autographs. A small blip in a huge worldwide network of desire, his business is to hunt for names on paper, collect them, sell them, and occasionally fake them—all to give the people what they want: a little piece of Fame. But what does Alex want? Only the return of his father, the reinstatement of some kind of all-powerful, benevolent God-type figure, the end of religion, something for his headache, three different girls, infinite grace, and the rare autograph of forties movie actress Kitty Alexander.

2002/2003

Bellow, Saul. *Herzog*. New York, Penguin USA, 1996. ISBN: 0140189432 (reprint edition). \$14.00

In one of his finest achievements, Nobel Prize winner Saul Bellow presents a multifaceted portrait of a modern-day hero, a man struggling with the complexity of existence and longing for redemption.

Calisher, Hortense. *Sunday Jews*. New York: Harcourt, 2002. ISBN: 0156027453. \$15.00

A family saga considers issues of national and religious identity and how they impact one Jewish American family, including Charles, who aspires to be a Supreme Court Justice, and Bert, who becomes a rabbi despite his ambivalence toward Jewish institutions.

Canin, Ethan. *Carry Me Across the Water*. New York: Random House, 2001. ISBN: 037575993X. \$12.95

Follows the life and fortunes of August Kleinman, a man who shapes his destiny in the fires of World War II and its aftermath.

Ducovny, Amram. *Coney*. Woodstock: Overlook Press, 2000. ISBN: 1585671991. \$15.95

A first novel with a perfectly realized setting: Coney Island in 1939, a heady mix of immigrants, carnival freaks, and gangsters.

Dunow, Henry. *The Way Home: Scenes from a Season, Lessons from a Lifetime*. New York: Broadway Books, 2001. ISBN: 0767907345. \$14.00

Presents the story of the author's journey of discovery as he coaches his son's Little League team on Manhattan's Upper West Side and shares his observations about parenthood, Jewishness, urban life, and the culture of competition among men and boys.

Foer, Jonathan Safran. *Everything is Illuminated*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002. ISBN: 0060529709. \$13.95

In the summer after his junior year of college, a writer- also named Jonathan Safran Foer- journeys to the farmlands of eastern Europe. Armed with only a yellowing photograph, he sets out to find Augustine, the woman who might or might not be a link to the grandfather he never knew- the woman who, he has been told, saved his grandfather from the Nazis.

Grant, Linda. *When I Lived in Modern Times*. New York: Dutton, 2001. ISBN: 0452282926. \$13.00

A young woman's journey to Palestine in the wake of World War II stands at the center of this novel about the birth of Israel.

Kluger, Steve. *Last Days of Summer*. New York: Bard, 1998. ISBN: 0380797631. \$13.00

Through letters, notes, report cards, matchbook covers, and telegrams, a novel set in the 1940s follows the sometimes underhanded efforts of a fatherless twelve-year-old to persuade New York Giants third baseman Charlie Banks to be his role model.

Oz, Amos. *The Same Sea*. Translated from the Hebrew by Nicholas de Lange. New York: Harcourt Inc, 2001. ISBN: 0156013126. \$13.00

Celebrated Israeli novelist Oz gets daring here, blending prose and poetry in an exploration of the tensions among a wayward son, his widowed father, and the son's girlfriend.

2001/2002

Bloom, Stephen G. *Postville: A Clash of Cultures in Heartland America*. New York: Harcourt, 2000. ISBN: 0156013363. \$14.00

The history of a small town in Iowa where, in 1987, a group of Lubavitcher Jews opened a kosher slaughterhouse.

Dershowitz, Alan M. *Just Revenge*. New York: Warner Books, 1999. ISBN: 0446608718. \$7.99

An explosive legal thriller that pits Dershowitz's literary alter ego, attorney Abe Ringel, against the worst crime of the twentieth century -- the Holocaust.

Glickfeld, Carole. *Swimming Toward the Ocean*. New York: Knopf, 2001. ISBN: 0385721765. \$14.00

A woman narrates the story of her parents' marriage, describing the complex, sometimes comical, sometimes poignant relationship that exists between Chenia Arnow, a sensuous, Russian-Jewish immigrant, and her charming but unreliable and unfaithful husband, Ruben.

Hochschild, Adam. *King Leopold's Ghost*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1998. ISBN: 0618001905. \$15.00

In the 1880's, as the European powers were carving up Africa, King Leopold II of Belgium seized for himself the vast and largely unexplored territory surrounding the Congo River. Carrying out a genocidal plundering of the Congo, he looted its rubber, brutalized its people, and ultimately slashed the population by ten million--all while shrewdly cultivating his international reputation as a great humanitarian.

Korelitz, Jean Hanff. *The Sabbathday River*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999. ISBN: 0515130117. \$7.99

One warm September morning in 1985, Naomi Roth finds the drowned body of a newborn baby girl floating in the Sabbathday River. The community rapidly fingers Heather Pratt, a young single mother, as the prime suspect. But when the body of a second infant is found, Heather is charged with both deaths.

Reiken, Frederick. *The Lost Legends of New Jersey*. New York : Harcourt, 2000. ISBN: 0156010941. \$13.00

This story of teenage life and love in suburban New Jersey chronicles the relationship between Anthony Rubin, a young Jewish teen whose own family is falling apart, and his neighbor, Juliette, the daughter of a reputed Mafioso.

Rochlin, Harriet. *On Her Way Home*. Santa Barbara: Fithian Press, 2001. ISBN: 1564746666. \$21.95 (HC)

Told from the viewpoint of a strong-minded young Jewish woman, *On Her Way Home*, the third novel in Harriet Rochlin's acclaimed Desert Dwellers Trilogy, is good-hearted, action-packed, and full of the rugged frontier spirit of Arizona in the 1880s. See also *The Reformer's Apprentice* (1997) and *The First Lady Dos Cacahuates* (1998).

Rosen, Jonathan. *The Talmud and the Internet*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000. ISBN: 031242017X. \$10.00

The author explores the relationship between ancient religious tradition and modern technology as he reflects on the very different lives of his two grandmothers--one American, and one murdered by the Nazis.

Wiesenthal, Simon. *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness* (newly expanded).

New York: Schocken Books, 1998. ISBN: 0805210601. \$13.00

While imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp, Simon Wiesenthal was taken to the bedside of a dying member of the SS. Haunted by the crimes in which he had participated, the soldier wanted to confess to--and obtain absolution from--a Jew. At the time Wiesenthal said nothing. Now he wonders: Had he done the right thing? What would you have done in his place? In this important book, fifty-three distinguished men and women respond to Wiesenthal's questions.

Wilentz, Amy. *Martyrs' Crossing*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001. ISBN: 0345449835. \$14.00

Israeli lieutenant Ari Doron falls in love with the wife of a jailed Palestinian militant in the midst of a wave of terrorism; violence that he may have set into motion because of following orders to refuse to allow passage to a young mother and her ailing child.

2000/2001

Cooley, Martha. *The Archivist*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1998. ISBN: 0316158461. \$13.00

Drawing richly upon the poems of T.S. Eliot and the intellectual and social climate of postwar New York City, this is an unforgettable novel about memory and desire.

Duba, Ursula. *The Tales from a Child of the Enemy*. New York: Penguin Books, 1999. ISBN: 014058787X. \$8.95

A German gentile recalls her early childhood in a war-torn country and the shattering revelation, years later, of the Holocaust.

Goldberg, Myla. *Bee Season*. New York: Doubleday, 2000. ISBN: 0385498802. \$13.00

An ordinary girl with an exceptional gift for spelling, young Eliza Naumann embarks on the rough-and-tumble "spelling bee" circuit, where her quirky family will collide with the harsh realities of life.

Goldman, Judy. *The Slow Way Back*. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1999. ISBN: 0060957891. \$13.00

This novel traces three generations of a Southern Jewish family. It is a story of deeply rooted family secrets, the complex love between sisters, and the constant human struggle to keep one's history alive.

Nahai, Gina Barkhordar. *Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1999. ISBN: 0671042831. \$13.95

Weaving together strands of Persian and Jewish culture, Gina Nahai brings to life a courageous circle of women rooted in their homeland but reshaping their lives in America.

Nattel, Lilian. *The River Midnight*. New York: Scribner, 1999. ISBN: 0684853043. \$14.00

An engrossing and moving story of what happens when the town midwife becomes pregnant and will not reveal the identity of the father.

Ozick, Cynthia. *The Shawl*. New York: Random House, 1989. ISBN: 0679729267. \$9.00

A devastating vision of the Holocaust and the unfillable emptiness it left in the lives of those who passed through it.

Roth, Philip. *The Human Stain*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000. ISBN: 0375726349. \$14.00

A college professor with a sexual indiscretion in his past is hounded from his job by academic enemies who label him a racist.

Singer, Katie. *The Wholeness of a Broken Heart*. New York: Riverhead Books, 1999. ISBN: 1573228311. \$14.00

Narrated through the voices of four generations of Jewish women, this novel recounts the story of a young woman's troubled relationship with her mother.

1999/2000

Appelfeld, Aron. *The Conversion*. New York: Schocken Books, 1998. ISBN: 0805210989. \$12.00

From the internationally acclaimed author of *Badenheim 1939* and *The Iron Tracks* comes a haunting love story set in turn-of-the-century Austria.

Diamant, Anita. *The Red Tent*. New York: St, Martin's Press, 1997. ISBN: 0312195516. \$14.95

Lost to history by the chronicles of men, this is the story of Dinah, Jacob's only daughter, in the book of Genesis.

Dubner, Stephen. *Turbulent Souls: A Catholic Son's Return to His Jewish Family*. New York: William Morrow & Company, 1998. ISBN: 038072930X. \$14.00

The intimate and deeply moving personal memoir of a man in search of a Jewish heritage he never knew he had.

Gordimer, Nadine. *The House Gun*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998. ISBN: 0140278206. \$14.00

Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer presents a passionate narrative about the loyalty of a couple devoted to its son, who has shot the friend he discovers making love to his female companion.

Lipman, Elinor. *The Inn at Lake Devine*. New York: Random House, 1998. ISBN: 037570485X. \$13.00

In 1962 Vermont, Natalie's mother is told that a summer resort does not accept Jews. When Natalie tries to enter the world that has excluded her, she succeeds beyond her wildest dreams through the sheerest of accidents.

Park, Jacqueline. *The Secret Book of Grazia dei Rossi*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997. ISBN: 0684848406. \$14.00

As she recreates life in Renaissance Italy in captivating detail, Park creates a timeless portrait of a brave and brilliant Jewish woman trapped in an unforgiving, inflexible society.

1998/1999

Note: This year we took a "genre approach," reading and discussing a variety of different kinds of books, including plays, historical fiction, non-fiction, fiction, memoirs, short stories, and biographies.

Brookner, Anita. *Visitors*. New York: Vintage Books, 1999. ISBN: 0679781471. \$12.00

When her late husband's sister asked her to take in a reticent young drifter who is to be best man at a granddaughter's wedding, 70-year-old recluse Dorothea May is forced to realize that old age will require a good deal more courage than she had anticipated. (Fiction)

Gelissen, Rena Kornreich. *Rena's Promise*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1995. ISBN: 0807070718. \$16.00

An extraordinary memoir of two sisters who survived in Auschwitz for more than three years. (Memoir)

Goodman, Allegra. *Total Immersion*. New York: Harper & Row, 1989. ISBN: 0385332998. \$11.95

In these stories, Allegra Goodman fills rooms with laughter and voices, captures dinner parties, seaside picnics, academic grudges, shul politics, and the kind of hurts that only families and lovers can know. Featuring two new stories previously published in *The New Yorker*, *Total Immersion* is Allegra Goodman's first collection of short fiction. (Short Stories)

Graham, Katherine. *Personal History*. New York: A.A. Knopf, 1997. ISBN: 0375701044. \$15.00

In this critically acclaimed memoir, the woman who piloted the "Washington Post" through the crises of the Pentagon Papers, Watergate, and a pressmen's strike and turned it into a great newspaper now tells her story with courage, candor, and dignity. (Biography)

Lerner, Gerda. *Why History Matters*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. ISBN: 0195122895. \$17.95

Combining her personal reminiscences with innovative theory to illuminate the importance of history and the vital role women have played in it. Includes accounts of Lerner's life as a refugee in America, her return to Austria after fleeing the Nazis, and her slow assimilation into American life. (Non-fiction)

Piercy, Marge. *City of Darkness, City of Light*. New York: Fawcett Columbine, 1996. ISBN: 0449912752. \$14.95

An epic historical novel provides powerful stories about the unforgettable women of the French Revolution, demonstrating the significant part they played in this dark period of struggle and repression. (Historical Fiction)

Wasserstein, Wendy. *The Sisters Rosenzweig*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993. ISBN: 015600013X. \$11.00

Sara's 54th birthday party becomes a psychodrama when a series of bizarre characters invade her London flat: Sara's sister, talk-show host Gorgeous; her sister Pfeni, a peripatetic travel writer; Pfeni's bisexual lover; and Sara's possibly anti-Semitic beau. Romance, recrimination, and reconciliation are the hallmarks of this ultimately uplifting comedy. (Drama)

1997/1998

Calof, Rachel. *Rachel Calof's Story: Jewish Homesteader on the Northern Plains*. Ed. J. Sanford Rikoon. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996. ISBN: 0253209862. \$11.58

The memoirs of an 18-year-old girl who left her Russian shtetl in 1894 to begin a new life homesteading in North Dakota.

Derdarian, Mae M. *Vergeen: A Survivor of the Armenian Genocide*. Los Angeles: Atmus Press, 1997. ISBN: 1888156023. \$14.95

The true story of a young girl's will to survive the genocide of the Armenians during World War I.

Eisenberg, Robert. *Boychiks in the Hood: Travels in the Hasidic Underground*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1995. ISBN: 0062512234. \$12.00

Travel with Eisenberg, a secular Jew from Omaha, on a journey into the hearts and lives of the Hasidim around the world.

Goodman, Allegra. *The Family Markowitz*. New York: Washington Square Press, 1996. ISBN: 0671013882. \$14.00

A National Bestseller, this is the story of three generations of Markowitzes making their way in America.

Isler, Alan. *The Prince of West End Avenue*. New York: Penguin Books, 1994. ISBN: 0140245146. \$12.95

Set in a New York retirement home inhabited by colorful, libidinous Jewish intellectuals and pseudo-intellectuals, the novel combines comedy and tragedy that spans the 20th century.

Jen, Gish. *Mona in the Promised Land*. New York: Vintage Books, 1996. ISBN: 0679776508. \$13.00

Moving to Scarshill, New York, with her newly prosperous family, Mona Chang discovers that, in 1968, the Chinese have become the 'new Jews'.

***The Memoirs of Gluckel of Hameln*. Trans. Marvin Lowenthal. New York: Schocken Books, 1977. ISBN: 0805205721. \$15.00**

The memoirs of a Jewish woman living in seventeenth-century Germany.

Roth, Philip. *American Pastoral*. New York: Vintage Books, 1997. ISBN: 0375701427. \$14.00

An ordinary man finds that his life has been made extraordinary by the catastrophic intrusion of history, when, in 1968, his adored daughter plants a bomb that kills a stranger, hurling her father out of the longed-for American pastoral and into the ingenious American berserk.