

# Temple Israel 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Book Club

## Suggested Reading 2006-2007

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(unless otherwise noted, all books are in-print & available in paperback as of September 2006)

### CONTEMPORARY:

**Koss, Amy Goldman. *The Cheat*. New York: Dial Books, 2003. ISBN: 0142401285. \$5.99**  
When Sarah gets her hands on the answers to the eighth-grade geography midterm and decides to share them with some other students, the consequences are far-ranging. See also *The Girls* and *Gossip Times Three*.

**Mack, Tracy. *Birdland*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2003. ISBN: 0439535913. \$5.99**  
Fourteen-year-old, tongue-tied Jed spends winter break working on a school project filming a documentary about his East Village, New York City, neighborhood, where he is continually reminded of his older brother, Zeke, a promising poet who died the year before. Sydney Taylor Honor Award 2003.

**Meyer, Carolyn. *Drummers of Jericho*. San Diego: Gulliver Books Paperbacks, 1995. ISBN: 0152001905. \$6.00**

As a Jew, Pazit Trujillo objects when she and the rest of the Jericho High School band are instructed to play hymns and march in a cross, turning the whole town against her, except for one brave friend. (2001/2002 Selection)

**Miklowitz, Gloria. *The Enemy Has a Face*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2003. ISBN: 0802852610. \$8.00**

Netta and her family have relocated temporarily from Israel to Los Angeles, and when her seventeen-year-old brother mysteriously disappears, she becomes convinced that he has been abducted by Palestinian terrorists. (2003/2004 Selection)

**Newman, Leslea. *Fat Chance*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1994. ISBN: 0399227601. \$5.99**

In a series of diary entries, thirteen-year-old Judi recounts her struggles to lose weight, hide her bulimia from her mother, find a boyfriend, and decide on a profession. (2002/2003 and (2005/2006 Selection)

**Rabb, M.E. *Missing Persons: The Rose Queen*. New York: Speak/Penguin Group USA, 2004. ISBN: 0142500410. \$5.99**

The first titles in the *Missing Persons* mystery series introduce teen orphans Samantha and Sophie Shattenberg, Jewish sisters who flee their Queens, New York, home after their father's death to escape their stepmother, who intends to abscond with the family money and ship Sophie off to boarding school. A few felonies later, the girls settle into a new life, and new identities, in tiny Venice, Indiana. See also: *The Chocolate Lover*, *The Venetian Policeman*, and *The Unsuspecting Gourmet*. (2004/2005 Selection)

**Rahlens, Holly-Jane. *Prince William, Maximilian Minsky, and Me.* Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2005. ISBN: 0763627046. \$16.99 (HC)**

Nelly Sue Edelmeister learns to play basketball, copes with a major crush on Prince William, makes a true friend, and finds meaning in becoming a bat mitzvah in this funny and touching novel that takes place in modern Berlin. 2006 Sydney Taylor Honor Award Winner.

**Sones, Sonya. *What My Mother Doesn't Know.* New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2001. ISBN: 0689855532. \$6.99**

Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right. (2005/2006 Selection)

**Woodson, Jacqueline. *If You Come Softly.* New York: Putnam, 1998. ISBN: 0142406015. \$5.99**

Fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is Black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with people's reactions. See also *Behind You*.

#### ISRAEL:

**Carmi, Daniella. *Samir and Yonatan.* New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2000. ISBN: 0439135230. \$4.99**

Samir, a Palestinian boy, is sent for surgery to an Israeli hospital where he has two otherworldly experiences, making friends with an Israeli boy, Yonatan, and finding peace about his brother's death in the war.

**Kass, Pnina Moed. *Real Time.* New York: Clarion Books, 2004. ISBN: 061869174X. \$7.99.**

Hour by hour, we follow a diverse cast of characters up to and beyond the moment of a bus bombing in Israel. The inner lives of kibbutzniks, tourists, soldiers, and even the Palestinian teen who carries the bomb are absorbingly related, revealing how political situations are really composed of many overlapping personal situations.

**Levitin, Sonia. *The Return.* New York: Fawcett Books, 1991. ISBN: 0449702804 (reprint edition). \$5.99**

Desta and the other members of her Falasha family, Jews suffering from discrimination in Ethiopia, finally flee the country and attempt the dangerous journey to Israel. 1987 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner. (2000/2001 Selection)

#### HISTORICAL FICTION:

**Auch, Mary Jane. *Ashes of Roses.* New York: Henry Holt, 2002. ISBN: 044023851X. \$5.99**

Sixteen-year-old Margaret Rose Nolan, newly arrived from Ireland, finds work at New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist Factory shortly before the 1911 fire in which 146 employees died.

**Hesse, Karen. *Witness*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2001. ISBN: 0439272009. \$5.99**

A series of poems expresses the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town. Discussion guide available at [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com).

**Lasky, Kathryn. *Broken Song*. New York: Viking, 2005. ISBN: 0142407410. \$6.99  
(paperback available in February 2007)**

In 1897, fifteen-year-old Reuven Bloom, a Russian Jew, must set aside his dreams of playing the violin in order to save himself and his baby sister after the rest of their family is murdered. See also *The Night Journey*.

**Lasky, Kathryn. *Blood Secret*. New York: HarperCollins, 2004. ISBN: 0060000635.  
\$5.99**

Fourteen-year-old Jerry Luna, mute since her mother's disappearance, is sent to her great-great aunt Constanza's house, where she discovers a trunk that draws her into the world of her ancestors during the Spanish Inquisition.

**Lester, Julius. *Pharaoh's Daughter*. San Diego : Harcourt, 2000. ISBN: 0064409694.  
\$5.99**

A fictionalized account of a Biblical story in which an Egyptian princess rescues a Hebrew infant who becomes a prophet to his people while his sister finds her true self as a priestess to the Egyptian gods.

**Levitin, Sonia. *The Cure*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1999. ISBN: 038073298X. \$5.99**

A sixteen-year-old boy living in 2407 collides with the past when he finds himself in Strasbourg in 1348 confronting the anti-Semitism that sweeps through Europe during the Black Plague. (2001/2002 Selection)

**Meyer, Carolyn. *Gideon's People*. San Diego: Gulliver Books, 1996. ISBN: 0152003045.  
\$6.00**

Torn between youthful rebellion and their traditional heritages, two boys from very different cultures--one Amish, one Orthodox Jew--discover just how similar they really are.

**Napoli, Donna Jo. *Daughter of Venice*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2002.  
ISBN: 0440229286. \$5.99**

Frustrated with the restrictions her gender imposes on her life, fourteen-year-old Donata, disguised as a boy, sneaks out of her noble family's house to roam the streets of late sixteenth-century Venice.

#### WORLD WAR II & THE HOLOCAUST:

**Ayer, Eleanor H. *Parallel Journeys*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers,  
1995. ISBN: 0689832362. \$5.99**

Presents the stories of Eleanor Ayer, a Jewish girl who hid in the Netherlands before she was arrested and sent to Auschwitz, and Alfons, a Nazi boy who became a commander at age sixteen, in a dual tale that demonstrates Hitler's impact on German youth.

**Bat Ami, Miriam. *Two Suns in the Sky*. Chicago: Cricket Books/Front Street, 1999. ISBN: 0812629000. \$6.99**

After being moved from Yugoslavia to a refugee camp in New York during World War II, one Jewish boy is befriended by a local girl, but when their special friendship turns to romance, their parents demand they end the relationship. (2000/2001 and 2002/2003 Selection)

**Bennett, Cherie & Jeff Gottesfeld. *Anne Frank and Me*. New York: Putnam's, 2001. ISBN: 0698119738. \$6.99**

After suffering a concussion while on a class trip to a Holocaust exhibit, Nicole finds herself living the life of a Jewish teenager in Paris during the Nazi occupation. (2002/2003 Selection)

**Bitton-Jackson, Livia. *I Have Lived A Thousand Years*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN: 0689823959. \$4.99**

The author describes her experiences during World War II when she and her family were sent to the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. Sydney Taylor Honor Book, 1997. See also *My Bridges of Hope* and *Hello America*.

**Chotjewitz, David. *Daniel, Half-Human and the Good Nazi*. Trans. Doris Orgel. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2004. ISBN: 0689857470. \$17.95 (HC)**

In 1933, best friends Daniel and Armin admire Hitler, but as anti-Semitism buoys Hitler to power, Daniel learns he is half Jewish, threatening the friendship even as life in their beloved Hamburg, Germany, is becoming nightmarish. Sydney Taylor Honor Award Winner for Older Readers, 2004.

**Holm, Anne. *I Am David*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, 2004. ISBN: 0152051600. \$5.95**

After escaping from an Eastern European concentration camp where he has spent most of his life, a twelve-year-old boy struggles to cope with an entirely strange world as he flees northward to freedom in Denmark. Previously published as *North to Freedom*; also available on DVD.

**Isaacs, Anne. *Torn Thread*. New York: Scholastic, 2000. ISBN: 0590603647. \$4.99**

In an attempt to save his daughter's life, Eva's father sends her from Poland to a labor camp in Czechoslovakia where she and her sister survive the war. Discussion guide available at [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com).

**Levitin, Sonia. *Room in the Heart*. New York: Penguin USA, 2003. ISBN: 0142403393. \$7.99**

After German forces occupy Denmark during World War II, fifteen-year-old Julie Weinstein and fifteen-year-old Niels Nelson and their friends and families try to cope with their daily lives, finding various ways to resist the Nazis and, ultimately, to survive.

**Matas, Carol. *After the War*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996. ISBN: 0689807228. \$4.99**

After being released from Buchenwald at the end of World War II, fifteen-year-old Ruth risks her life to lead a group of children across Europe to Palestine. See also *The Garden*.

**Napoli, Donna Jo. *Stones in Water*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1997. ISBN: 0141306009. \$5.99**

Best friends Roberto, a non-Jew, and Samuele, a Jew, find themselves in a brutal Nazi work camp. They vow to stay together no matter what, keeping Samuele's identity secret. If his identity is revealed, it will cost both boys their lives. With strength and wit, the boys protect and defend each other and learn deep lessons about friendship. 1998 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner. See also *Fire in the Hills*.

**Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Arithmetic*. New York: Puffin, 1990. ISBN: 0140345353 (reprint edition). \$5.99**

Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland. 1988 Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner.

#### OTHER RESOURCES:

**Bauermeister, Erica and Holly Smith. *Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14*. New York: Penguin Books, 1997. ISBN: 0140257322**

Organized by reading level, this guide includes 375 recommendations for readers ages 2-14.

**Cooper-Mullin, Alison and Jennifer Marmaduke Coye. *Once Upon A Heroine: 450 Books for Girls to Love*. Chicago: Contemporary Books, 1998. ISBN: 0809230208**

Organized by age group, this guidebook includes descriptions of 450 books chosen by the authors and their daughters based on recommendations from teachers, librarians, and book reviews.

**Dodson, Shireen. *100 Books for Girls to Grow On*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1998. ISBN: 0060957182**

Lively descriptions of the most inspiring books for girls including discussion questions and ideas for book-inspired activities, crafts, and field trips.

**Odean, Kathleen. *Great Books for Girls*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997. ISBN: 034540484X**

Descriptions of over 600 books to inspire today's girls and tomorrow's women.