

AJE BOOK CLUB – JANUARY 18, 2006
Real Time / We Just Want to Live Here
Read-A-Likes & Resources

PICTURE BOOKS:

Bogot, Howard I. *Shalom, Salaam, Peace*. Illus. Norman Gorbaty. New York: Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1999.

An illustrated poem, presented in English, Hebrew, and Arabic, examining the meaning and benefits of peace. (Grades 1-4)

da Costa, Deborah. *Snow in Jerusalem*. Illus. Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 2001.

During a rare day of snow in Jerusalem, a Jewish boy and an Arab boy who live in the Old City experience a rare moment of friendship when they put aside their differences to help a stray cat. (Grades 1-3)

Podwal, Mark H. *Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescents*. New York: Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 2005.

Illustrates the significance of one of the world's most holy cities through an examination of religious events for Christians, Jews, and Muslims. (Grades 3-6)

Rouss, Sylvia. *Tali's Jerusalem Scrapbook*. Illus. Nancy Oppenheimer. New York: Pitspopany Press, 2003.

Every year, Tali's relatives from the States come to celebrate her birthday in Jerusalem, but this year, because of the unrest throughout the country, Tali and her family will celebrate alone with hope that the city will soon be full of joy once again. (Grades 3-5)

FICTION:

Banks, Lynne Reid. *One More River*. New York: Avon, 1993.

14-year-old Lesley is upset when her parents abandon their comfortable life in Canada for a kibbutz in Israel prior to the 1967 war. (Grades 5-8) See also *Broken Bridge* (1994).

Carmi, Daniella. *Samir and Yonatan*. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2000.

Samir, a Palestinian boy, is sent for surgery to an Israeli hospital where he has two otherworldly experiences - making friends with an Israeli boy and finding peace about his brother's death in the Intifada. (Grades 5-8)

Kaplan, Kathy Walden. *Dog of Knots*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004.

This quiet, beautifully written novel provides a 'slice of life' of secular Israelis living in Haifa before and during the Yom Kippur War of 1973. (Grades 4-6)

Keret, Etgar. *The Bus Driver Who Wanted to Be God*. New York: St Martin's Press, 2001.

From one of Israel's hippest bestselling young writers, this collection of short stories covers a remarkable emotional and narrative terrain - from a father's first lesson to his son to a standoff between soldiers caught in the Middle East conflict to a slice of life where nothing much happens. (Adult)

Levine, Anna. *Running on Eggs*. Chicago, IL: Cricket Books/Front Street, 1999.

A tentative friendship develops between an Israeli girl from a kibbutz and an Arab girl from a nearby village when both become members of a track team. (Grades 4-6)

Liebrecht, Savyon. *Apples from the Desert: Selected Stories*. New York: Feminist Press, 1998.

This collection of stories by one of Israel's most highly praised and popular young writers explores the everyday tragedies emanating from strained relations between Arabs and Jews, women and men, and older and younger generations in present-day Israel. (Adult)

Miklowitz, Gloria D. *The Enemy Has a Face*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2003.

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. (Grades 7-10) See also *Masada: The Last Fortress*.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Habibi*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997.

When fourteen-year-old Lianne Abboud, her younger brother, and her parents move from St. Louis to a new home between Jerusalem and the Palestinian village where her father was born, they face many changes and must deal with the tensions between Jews and Palestinians. (Grades 7-10)

***NOTE:** *This novel is written from a Palestinian perspective and has been criticized for reflecting an anti-Israel bias. However, it received critical acclaim in the general literary world and is used in many school curriculums.*

Papernick, Jon. *The Ascent of Eli Israel and Other Stories*. New York: Time Warner Book Group, 2002.

Offers short tales depicting the lives of Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans caught up in the turmoil of modern-day Israel as they confront the ever-present ethnic, religious, and political problems of the region. (Adult)

Sandell, Lisa Ann. *The Weight of the Sky*. New York: Viking, 2006.

A sixteen-year-old girl travels to Israel to spend the summer on a kibbutz and discovers who she is and what she wants out of life. (Grades 8-12)

Stein, Tammar. *Light Years*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005.

Maya Laor leaves her home in Israel to study astronomy at the University of Virginia after the tragic death of her boyfriend in a suicide bombing. (Grades 10 & up)

Wilentz, Amy. *Martyrs' Crossing*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001.

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

NON-FICTION:

Bard, Mitchell. *The Founding of the State of Israel*. Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven Press, 2003.

This volume in the *At Issue in History* series, explores a selection of primary and secondary source articles offering various points of view on the founding of the State of Israel. (Grades 9-12)

Ellis, Deborah. *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2004.

Through in-depth interviews with Israeli and Palestinian children ages 8-18, the experiences, dreams, and sorrows of a diverse group of children from both sides are presented in a touching tale about growing up in one of the world's most violent regions. (Grades 6-12)

***NOTE:** *The book reflects an anti-Israel bias. Also it does not explain the current conflict in Israel and does not provide enough information for the reader to understand both sides of the issue. Therefore, this book should only be used with the guidance of a teacher or adult who has a strong background in the current situation, and who is able to place each narrative in the proper context.*

Frank, Mitch. *Understanding the Holy Land: Answering Questions about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. New York: Viking, 2005.

Complete with maps and photographs, this guide provides a comprehensive review of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a review of the area's history, its people, significant past and present events, and definitions of commonly used terms. (Grades 6-10)

***NOTE:** *The latter parts of the book tend to show a little too much bias towards the Palestinians – use only with guidance from a teacher or adult who has a strong background on the topic.*

Goldstein, Margaret J. *Israel in Pictures, Revised Edition*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Company, 2004.

Text and illustrations present detailed information on the geography, history and government, economy, people, cultural life and society of traditional and modern Israel. Part of the "Visual Geography Series." (Grades 7-12)

Greenfeld, Howard. *A Promise Fulfilled: Theodor Herzl, Chaim Weitzmann, and David Ben-Gurion, and the Creation of the State of Israel*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2005.

Presents an historical examination and review of the Zionist movement and the foundation of Israel in 1948, complete with sidebars, timeline, photographs, and index. (Grades 9-12)

Stavicek, Louise Chipley. *Israel*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003.

Provides a balanced historical overview of the history of Israel, beginning in 1800 BCE and continuing to the present day. (Grades 8-12)

Ojeda, Auriana. *The Middle East*. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2003.

This timely volume includes arguments representing both sides of issues regarding the present Middle East situation. (Grades 9-12)

Woodward, John. *Israel: Opposing Viewpoints*. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2005.

Twenty-four previously published essays, speeches, position papers, and journal and newspaper articles are organized into four chapters providing diverse viewpoints on the following issues: "Should Israel Exist?," "What are the Roots of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?," "Is Peace Between Israel and the Palestinians Possible?," and "What Should U.S. Policy Be Toward Israel?" (Grades 9-12)

Zenatti, Valerie. *When I Was a Soldier: A Memoir*. Trans. Adriana Hunter. New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2005.

The story of one girl's experience in the Israeli army begins as she finishes her exams, breaks up with her boyfriend, and leaves for service where strict routines, grueling marches, poor food, and lack of sleep are the norm, but service has its rewards as well. (Grades 10 & up)

ADULT/TEACHER RESOURCES:

Bard, Mitchell. *Myths and Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Chevy Chase, MD: American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, 2002.

Revised and updated version of the classic guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict includes appendices, recommended internet resources, and an alphabetical index. See also *The Founding of the State of Israel* (2003) and *1001 Facts Everyone Should Know About Israel* (2003).

Benvenisti, Meron. *City of Stone: The Hidden History of Jerusalem*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996.

The domain of Muslims, Jews, and Christians, Jerusalem is a perpetual contest: its shrines, housing projects, and bulldozers compete in a scramble for possession. Benvenisti, one of Jerusalem's most respected authorities, presents an integrated history of the city that does not fall prey to any one version of its past. See also *Jerusalem, The Torn City* (1976), *Conflicts and Contradictions* (1986), and *Intimate Enemies: Jews and Arabs in a Shared Land* (1995).

Dershowitz, Alan M. *The Case for Israel*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2003.

One of America's leading attorneys offers an impassioned defense of the state of Israel, arguing that, although the country is not perfect, it remains the only outpost of democracy in the Middle East, answering critics who accuse Israel of being an imperialist power and documenting the facts about the nature of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. See also *Case for Peace: How the Arab-Israeli Conflict Can Be Resolved* (2005).

Gilbert, Martin. *Israel: A History*. New York: Morrow, 1998.

This is a riveting account of the history of Israel on its fiftieth anniversary by one of the world's preeminent historians. See also *Exile and Return: The Struggle for a Jewish Homeland* (1978), *Jerusalem: Rebirth of a City* (1985), and *Atlas of the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (1993).

Grossman, David. *Sleeping on a Wire: Conversations With Palestinians in Israel*. New York: St. Martins, 2003.

A personal journey into the world of the Arab citizens living in Israel depicts the painful dilemma of a people being torn between conflicting identities as they are shunned by both Jews and Palestinians. See also *Yellow Wind* (1988) and *Death As a Way of Life: From Oslo to the Geneva Agreement* (2004).

Horovitz, David. *Still Life With Bombers: Israel in the Age of Terrorism*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004.

Recounts the collapsed Camp David talks between Palestinian and Israeli leaders in 2000, analyzing the prospects of future peacemaking and the effects of the conflict on the lives of everyday people as conveyed in interviews with suicide bombing victims, refugees, government officials, and the author's own friends and family members. See also *A Little Too Close to God: The Thrills and Panic of a Life in Israel* (2000).

Kushner, Tony. *Wrestling with Zion: Progressive Jewish-American Responses to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. New York: Grove Press, 2003.

Leading Jewish poets, essayists, journalists, activists, scholars, and writers, reflecting a broad diversity of opinion and perspectives share their reflections in a collection of essays on the ongoing crisis in the Middle East as they address such topics as the link between American Jews and Israel, the need for Palestinian justice and Jewish survival, and the meaning of Zionism.

Laqueur, Walter. *A History of Zionism*. New York: Random House, 2003.

This reissue of the 1972 edition addresses challenges to the Zionist movement from the French Revolution to the 1948 founding of the state of Israel. Includes updated maps, photos, and a glossary. See also *Israel-Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict* (2001) and *Dying for Jerusalem: The Past, Present and Future of the Holiest City* (2005).

Segev, Tom. *One Palestine, Complete*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2000.

A history of Palestine under the British mandate chronicles a turbulent thirty-year history, from 1917 to 1948, that set the stage for the conflict between Arabs and Jews that still haunts the region today. See also *1949: The First Israelis*, *The Seventh Million: The Israelis and the Holocaust* (1993), *Elvis in Jerusalem: Post-Zionism and the Americanization of Israel* (2002), and *The Other Israel: Voices of Refusal and Dissent* (2004).

DVDs/VIDEOS:

***Families of Israel* (VHS 2000)**

Features contemporary Israeli and Palestinian families living in present-day Israel. (30 minutes)

***The 50 Years War: Israel and the Arabs* (DVD 1999)**

Leading statesmen, generals, terrorists and others who made headlines in one of history's most bitter and enduring struggles tell the story of the Arab-Israeli conflict. (290 minutes)

***In Search of Peace, Part One: 1948-1967* (DVD 2003)**

Narrated by Michael Douglas and featuring the voices of Anne Bancroft, Edward Asner, Richard Dreyfuss, Michael York and Miriam Margolyes, chronicles the first two decades of Israel's existence, offering new insights on the origins of the Middle East conflict. (112 minutes)

***Jerusalem: The City Touched by God* (VHS 1997)**

The passion and power of the singular city at the heart of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam is revealed in this award-winning film. (53 minutes)

***One Day in September* (VHS 1999)**

This Academy Award winning documentary retells the story of the massacre of Israeli athletes by a team of Palestinian terrorists during the 1972 Olympics in Munich. (94 minutes)

***Pillar of Fire* (DVD 2005)**

Relates the drama of the Jewish people's return to Zion and the establishment of the State of Israel through rare documentary footage collected from more than 30 archives and private collections throughout the world, as well as many eye-witness interviews. (7 hours)

***Promises* (DVD 2004)**

Follows the journey of a filmmaker who travels to both a Palestinian refugee camp and an Israeli settlement in the West Bank where he meets seven Israeli and Palestinian children who exist in completely separate worlds, divided by physical, historical, and emotional boundaries. (102 minutes)

***The Trojan Horse* (VHS 2002)**

Features footage from Palestinian TV and sound bytes from Palestinian leaders. Includes scenes from Arafat's camp, spokesmen denying the Holocaust and advocating for the destruction of Israel, and clips from the Palestinian version of *Sesame Street*. (40 minutes)

**Rachel Kamin, Director, Temple Israel Libraries & Media Center
5725 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48323
248/661-5700 (phone), 248/661-1302 (fax)
rkamin@temple-israel.org**