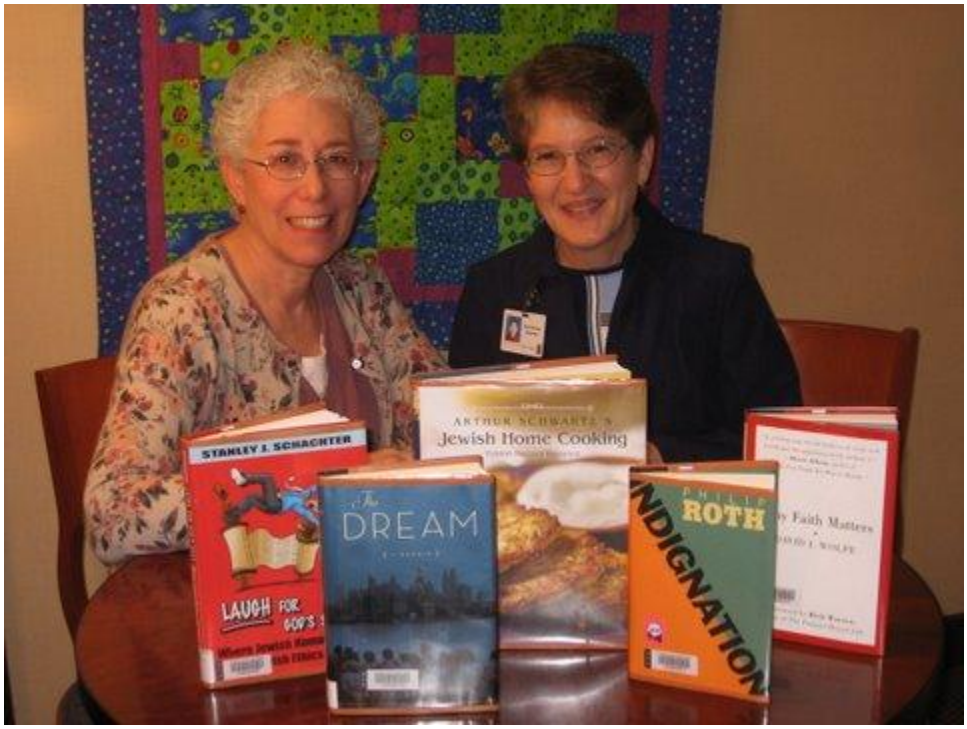
IN CELEBRATION OF
JEWISH BOOK MONTH
2008



A SELECTED LIST OF RECENT BOOKS FOR ADULTS

a Publication of the

Association of Jewish Libraries
Greater Cleveland Chapter

NONFICTION BOOKS

Bard, Mitchell Geoffrey. ***48 Hours of Kristallnacht: Night of Destruction/Dawn of the Holocaust: an Oral History.*** Lyons Press, 2008. Published on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, this chronicle contains a variety of eyewitness accounts of the destruction of synagogues and towns on the night of November 9, 1939.

Bart, Michael, and Laurel Corona. ***Until Our Last Breath: A Holocaust Story of Love and Partisan Resistance***. St. Martin's, 2008. Only at his father's funeral did the author learn of his parents' activities in the resistance which led him to research and write this moving story of the Vilna ghetto and his family's past.

Ben-Porat, Guy. ***Israel Since 1980***. Cambridge University Press, 2008. A weighty academic book, useful for its facts, figures and some analysis.

Bernstein, Harry. ***The Dream***. Ballantine, 2008. In a follow-up to last year's *The Invisible Wall*, ninety-eight-year-old Harry Bernstein continues his family's story and recounts his youth as a new immigrant to America during the Depression.

Burkett, Elinor. ***Golda.*** HarperCollins, 2008. *Publisher's Weekly* calls this new biography of one of the most influential women in modern history "solidly researched" and "highly readable."

Chabon, Michael. ***Maps and Legends: Essays on Reading and Writing along the Borderlands.*** McSweeney's Books, 2008. The author of *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* explores writing, literature, and books in his first collection of nonfiction essays.

Chiger, Krystyna and Daniel Paisner. ***The Girl in the Green Sweater: a Life in Holocaust's Shadow.*** St. Martin's, 2008. A harrowing personal account of 14 months spent in the underground sewers of Lvov, Poland.

Cohen, Aaron. ***Brotherhood of Warriors: Behind Enemy Lines with a Commando in one of the World's most Elite Counterterrorism Units.*** Ecco, 2008**.** At age 18, American born Cohen leaves behind a comfortable life in Beverly Hills in order to join one of Israel's most dangerous undercover security forces in life and death missions.

Demetz, Peter. ***Prague in Danger: The Years of German Occupation, 1939-1945: Memories and History, Terror and Resistance, Theater and Jazz, Film and Poetry, Politics and War***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. Demetz, whose mother was Jewish, adds personal recollections to this political and cultural history of his beloved city during World War II.

Diamant, Anita and Karen Kushner. ***How to Raise a Jewish Child: a Practical Handbook for Family Life.*** Schocken Books, 2008. This is a revised and updated edition of the classic parenting book.

Diamond, James. ***Stringing the Pearls, How to Read the Weekly Torah Portion***. Jewish Publication Society, 2008. For both the novice and advanced reader, this book provides the tools needed to understand and analyze the 54 Torah portions.

Draitser, Emil. ***Shush!: Growing Up Jewish under Stalin: a Memoir.*** University of California Press, Berkeley, 2008. This compelling memoir takes us inside the anti-Semitic post-Holocaust world of Soviet Russia where being Jewish meant hiding your identity.

Elkins, Dov Peretz, compiler and editor. ***Jewish Stories from Heaven and Earth: Inspiring Tales to Nourish the Heart and Soul.*** Jewish Lights, 2008. These 69 uplifting stories cover such topics as hope, endurance, goodness, tradition, and the land of Israel.

Fernandes, Edna. ***The Last Jews of Kerala: the Two Thousand Year History of India's Forgotten Jewish Community***. Skyhorse Pub., 2008. This little-known Jewish community in southwest India enjoyed economic privilege and political influence for centuries until ethnic rivalries, illness and emigration to Israel reduced the population from thousands to fewer than 50.

Fishbein, Susie. ***Passover by Design: Picture-Perfect Kosher by Design Recipes for the Holiday.*** Artscroll/Shaar Press, 2008. The author of the popular *Kosher by Design* cookbooks, Fishbein's collection of modern, upscale recipes such as "Frozen Pineapple-Coconut Truffles" and "Quinoa with Thai Flavors" will ensure happy Passover taste buds.

Gans, Chaim. **A *Just Zionism: On the Morality of the Jewish State.*** Oxford University Press, 2008. Gans offers readers a systematic philosophical analysis of the Zionist enterprise as a whole, and examines the moral and political aspects of Zionism in history.

Goldberg, Jeffrey. ***Prisoners: a Story of Friendship and Terror.*** Vintage Books, 2008. Despite their many differences, an American Jew and Palestinian prisoner forge a friendship that endures over a decade.

Goldhill, Simon. ***Jerusalem: City of Longing***. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2008. Goldhill's comprehensive guidebook to Jerusalem explores the archaeology, history, and significance of the city that is sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Grossman, David. ***Writing in the Dark, Essays.*** Translated by Jessica Cohen. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. This collection of essays on contemporary Israel, literature and language comes from one of Israel's best known writers.

Harel, Zev and David Guttmann. ***Holocaust Survivors and the State of Israel.*** Kol Israel Foundation and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, 2008. This book examines the significant contributions Holocaust survivors have made to the State of Israel and the challenges faced by their aging population.

Hirsch, Sherre Z. ***We Plan, God Laughs: 10 Steps to Finding your Divine Path when Life is not Turning out like you Wanted.*** Doubleday, 2008. Drawing on stories from her counseling work, Rabbi Hirsch shows that with hope and faith, we can make a positive difference in our lives and to those around us.

Kaplan, Arie. ***From Krakow to Krypton: Jews and Comic Books.*** Jewish Publication Society, 2008. Kaplan's splendid survey of the history of comic books delves into the unique contributions of Jews to the creation, illustration, and publication of this popular American art form.

Karlen, Neal. ***The Story of Yiddish: How a Mish-Mosh of Languages Saved the Jews.*** William Morrow, 2008. Karlen examines the humble beginnings of Yiddish in medieval Europe to its current popularity in the United States, Israel and usage by millions of non-Jews.

Keneally, Thomas. ***Searching for Schindler.*** Nan A. Talese, 2008. A chance encounter in a Beverly Hills luggage shop owned by Holocaust Survivor, Leopold "Poldek" Pfefferberg, inspired Keneally to write his award-winning novel *Schindler's List.*

Koppel, Lily. ***The Red Leather Diary: Reclaiming a Life through the Pages of a Lost Journal***. HarperCollins, 2008. Inspired by and including a forgotten diary of a 1930s New York teenager, the author's narrative creates a time capsule of a very specific place and time.

Kraemer, Joel. L. ***Maimonides: the Life and World of one of Civilization's Greatest Minds.*** Doubleday, 2008. This authoritative biography sheds light on the monumental contributions to Judaism of Maimonides as a philosopher, physician and scholar who flourished while living in Muslim-ruled Spain and Egypt.

Levey, Gregory. ***Shut Up, I'm Talking and Other Diplomacy Lessons I Learned in the Israeli Government: A Memoir.*** Free Press, 2008. With sharp insight and wit, a 25-year-old Canadian offers us a look inside Israel's politics from the perspective of a complete outsider.

Levy, Faye**.** ***Healthy Cooking for the Jewish Home: 200 Recipes for Eating well on Holidays and every Day.*** William Morrow, 2008. Levy succeeds at blending healthy eating with hearty, comforting favorites. She lightens classics like cholent and kugel, and features "Ashkephardic" fusion dishes using Sephardic cooking traditions to restore flavor when Ashkenazic calories are reduced.

Lofenfeld, Leah and Ramit Frenkel. ***The Boat and the Sea of Galilee***. Gefen, 2007. Through pictures and text, the reader encounters the emotional and surprising story of the discovery and preservation of a 2000-year-old boat.

Meszler, Joseph B. ***A Man's Responsibility: a Jewish Guide to being a Son, a Partner in Marriage, a Father and a Community Leader.*** Jewish Lights, 2008. Meszler, a Reform rabbi, combines his experience with men's study groups, psychology and Jewish teaching to provide a guide for men seeking to enhance their roles in family and community.

Miller, Aaron David. ***The Much Too Promised Land: America's Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace***. Bantam Books, 2008. A diplomat with local ties, Miller writes clearly, and his policy opinions and personal stories will stir great interest.

Morris, Benny. ***1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War***. Yale University Press, 2008. The controversial revisionist historian analyzes the war and the founding myths of the country in this excellent historiography.

Paley, Grace. ***Fidelity.*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. Published posthumously, this final collection of poems centers around death, memory and loss of loved ones.

Porter, Anna. ***Kasztner's Train: The True Story of an Unknown Hero of the Holocaust***. Walker, 2008. Traitor or hero? The story of this controversial figure should stir debate again.

Rosenthal, Donna. ***The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land, Updated in 2008 for the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of Israel***. Free Press, 2008. Fascinating and readable, this collection interweaves hundreds of personal stories with intriguing new research on the diverse citizenry of Israel.

Ruttenberg, Danya. ***Surprised by God: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Religion.*** Beacon Press, 2008. This book is the personal memoir of a young woman's spiritual awakening and eventual path to the rabbinate.

Sabar, Ariel. ***My Father's Paradise: a Son's Search for his Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq.*** Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2008. Growing up privileged in California, Sabar comes to terms with his father's humble beginnings as a Kurdish Jew in Iraq.

Schachter, Stanley J. ***Laugh for God's Sake: where Jewish Humor and Jewish Ethics Meet.*** Ktav, 2008. Through this compilation of nearly a 150 Jewish jokes, Rabbi Schachter reveals their connection to primary teachings of Jewish ethics.

Scharfstein, Sol. ***Torah and Commentary: the Five Books of Moses: Translation, Rabbinic and Contemporary Commentary.*** Ktav, 2008. This new highly readable translation of the Torah also includes commentaries by classic and contemporary rabbinic scholars.

Schwartz, Arthur. ***Arthur Schwartz's Jewish Home Cooking: Yiddish Recipes Revisited***. Ten Speed Press, 2008. Arthur Schwartz is The Food Maven and can be found on the Internet, radio, and TV. In his newest book he serves up plenty of anecdotes to accompany recipes of comfort food from long ago.

Shepard, Sadia. ***The Girl from Foreign, a Search of Shipwrecked Ancestors, Forgotten Histories and a Sense of Home.*** Penguin Press, 2008. This well crafted memoir follows a young Muslim-Christian woman's travels to an insular Jewish community in India to unlock her family's secret heritage.

Silver, Linda. ***The Jewish Values Finder: a Guide to Values in Jewish Children's Literature.*** Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2008. Teachers, parents and children will find this an invaluable resource for books on ethical conduct; justice and righteousness; honor and respect; mitzvot; repairing the world; and other Jewish values.

Stavans, Ilan. ***Resurrecting Hebrew***. Schocken Books, September 2008. This is the stirring story of how Hebrew became the living tongue of a modern nation through the determined efforts of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda.

Strober, Deborah H. and Gerald S. Strober. ***Israel at Sixty: a Pictorial and Oral History of a Nation Reborn.*** John Wiley and Sons, 2008. Based on extensive interviews, this book presents a balanced and comprehensive account of Israel as it celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Strouse, Charles. ***Put on a Happy Face.*** Union Square Press, 2008. In recognition of his 80th birthday, the composer of such musicals as *Annie, Bye Bye Birdie* and *Applause,* gives us a glimpse of Broadway, Hollywood and beyond.

Telushkin, Joseph. ***Jewish Literacy: the Most Important Things to Know about the Jewish Religion, Its people, and Its History.*** William Morrow, 2008. In this updated and revised edition, Rabbi Telushkin covers every essential aspect of Jewish life, culture, tradition and religion.

Wolpe, David J. ***Why Faith Matters.*** HarperOne, 2008. Rabbi Wolpe's articulate defense of religion in America makes the case for faith and its relationship to history and science.

FICTION BOOKS

Adler, Warren. ***Funny Boys.*** Overlook, 2008. Set against the lavish background of a hotel casino in the Catskills, this novel centers on comedic entertainer Mickey Fine and his infatuation with a woman who is linked to the mafia.

Agnon, S.Y. ***To This Day***. Translated by Hillel Halkin. Toby Press, 2008. Seen through the eyes of a young Jewish scholar in Germany during WWI, this novel which was first published in 1952, has finally been translated into English.

Albert, Elisa. ***The Book of Dahlia.*** Free Press, 2008. Diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, author Albert supplies Dahlia with intelligence, anger and a mordant sense of humor as she reflects on her failed 29 years of life.

Benioff, David. ***City of Thieves, a Novel.*** Viking, 2008. A writer wishes to capture his grandfather's past and the result is an original and captivating odyssey of two young men, Lev and Kolya, who are trying to survive against all odds during the infamous siege of Leningrad.

Brooks, Geraldine***. People of the Book***. Viking, 2008. A modern day story of love and adventure connects a series of tales imagined around characters that created or left their physical mark on the precious Sarajevo Haggadah through the ages.

Fallenberg, Evan. ***Light Fell.*** Soho Press, 2008. As he anticipates the first time he and his five sons will be together in 20 years, an Israeli man reviews the choices he made that destroyed his family.

Feldman, Ellen. ***Scottsboro: a Novel.*** Norton, 2008. Based on the true story of the infamous case in Scottsboro, Alabama, this powerful novel deals with race, class, anti-Semitism and a lie that refused to die.

Gessen, Keith. ***All the Sad Young Literary Men.*** Viking, 2008. Related short stories feature three gen-X writers: one wants to write the last great Zionist novel, one is struggling with his dissertation about the Mensheviks, and the third hangs out at Harvard and sounds like the author's avatar.

Goldreich, Gloria. ***Open Doors.*** Mira, 2008. By visiting each of her 4 children, ceramic artist Elaine Gordon comes to terms with her widowhood and gains better understanding of her grown children's complex lives.

Graff, Laurie. ***The Shiksa Syndrome.*** Broadway Books, 2008. After being dumped by her boyfriend on Christmas, Aimee Albert seeks companionship with a nice Jewish man who mistakes her for a Shiksa.

Hemon, Aleksandar. ***The Lazarus Project***. Riverhead/Penguin Group, 2008. A young Eastern European writer in present-day Chicago becomes obsessed with the 1908 murder of Lazarus Averbuch, a nineteen-year-old Jewish immigrant from Eastern Europe, and embarks on a journey with a story-telling photographer from Sarajevo to learn more about Lazarus' past.

Jenoff, Pam. ***The Diplomat's Wife***. Mira, 2008. Historical romance fans will relish this stirring sequel to last year's *The Kommandant's Girl.*

Kellerman, Faye. ***The Mercedes Coffin: A Decker and Lazarus Book***. William Morrow, 2008. Orthodox duo Decker and Lazarus investigate a Hollywood murder with connections to a 15-year-old murder case.

Keret, Etgar. ***The Girl on the Fridge.*** Translated by Miriam Shlesinger and Sondra Silverston. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. This new collection of ultra-short stories displays the characteristic surreal style of one of Israel's most popular writers.

Ludwig, Sidura. ***Holding My Breath: a Novel.*** Shaye Areheart Books, 2007. Set against the background of Manitoba, Canada, this novel celebrates the bonds of family and timeless traditions.

Mansbach, Adam. ***The End of the Jews.*** Spiegel & Grau, 2008. A provocative exploration of race, ethnicity, and the power of artistic drive in the lives of three generations of writers, musicians, and artists.

Manseau, Peter. ***Songs for the Butcher's Daughter: a Novel***. Free Press, 2008. This contemporary novel is an immigrant's epic saga, an ageless love story and a Yiddish inflected laughing-through-tears story of faith lost and hope found.

Neugeboren, Jay. ***1940: a Novel.*** Two Dollar Radio, 2008. Elisabeth Rofman discovers her father and her son have disappeared and is aided in her search by Dr. Eduard Bloch, physician to Adolf Hitler.

Roth, Philip. ***Indignation.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. This coming of age story, set in 1951, centers on Marcus Messner who is raised in New Jersey and discovers his own identity on a mid-western college campus.

Shawn, Karen and Keren Goldfrad, editors. ***The Call of Memory: Learning About the Holocaust Through Literature: An Anthology***. Ben Yehuda Press, 2008. This collection of twenty-seven chronologically- and thematically-arranged stories by Holocaust survivors and contemporary writers will be useful to teachers and students in high school and college. A teacher's guide is also available.

Sfar, Joann. ***The Rabbi's Cat 2***. Pantheon, 2008. The rabbi and his articulate cat return in two new beautifully-illustrated stories that explore the darker side of life for Jews in Algeria in the 1930's.

Silber, Ami. ***Early Bright.*** Toby Press, 2008. The year is 1948 and Louis Greenberg, a Jewish conman, navigates the treacherous waters of the world of jazz, passion, women and cynicism.

Silver, Marisa. ***The God of War.*** Simon & Schuster, 2008. This coming-of-age story takes place in 1978 in a desolate part of California where 12-year-old Ares battles poverty and struggles with his own identity.

Spechler, Diana. ***Who by Fire: a Novel.*** HarperCollins, 2008. When tragedy strikes the Kellerman family, each individual member reacts in disparate and dysfunctional ways.

Stern, Steve. ***The North of God.*** Melville Books, 2008. A memorable Holocaust novella, written in Stern's unique style of magic realism and Yiddish storytelling.

Vapnyar, Lara. ***Broccoli and Other Tales of Food and Love.*** Pantheon, 2008. Vegetables and cooking assuage the immigrant angst of Vapnyar's Russian Jewish heroes and heroines as they navigate complicated relationships in a new country.

Wagenstein, Angel. ***Isaac's Torah: Concerning the Life of Isaac Jacob Blumenfeld through Two World Wars, Three Concentration Camps and Five Motherlands.*** Translated by Elizabeth Frank and Deliana Simeonova. Handsel Books, 2008. Written with humor and poignancy, this novel in 5 parts is the saga of Isaac Jacob Blumenfeld and his uncanny abilities to survive.

Weiner, Jennifer. ***Certain Girls***. Atria Books, 2008. Fans of *Good in Bed* will be thrilled with this hilarious sequel as an older, wiser but always feisty Candace "Cannie" Shapiro comes to grips with the adolescent rebellion of her daughter, Joy.

Yehoshua, A. B. ***Friendly Fire: a Duet.*** Translated by Stuart Schoffman. Harcourt, 2008. Celebrated Israeli novelist, A. B.Yehoshua, explores the power of grief and bitterness in modern Israel through the lives of Daniella, Yirmiyahu and Amotz.

Yellin, Tamar. ***Tales of the Ten Lost Tribes.*** Toby Press, 2008. Each of these brief tales is named for one of the 10 lost tribes of Israel and follows the life journey of a wondering narrator who encounters a series of displaced persons.

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