IN CELEBRATION OF
JEWISH BOOK MONTH
2008

A SELECTED LIST OF RECENT BOOKS FOR ADULTS

a Publication of the
ajl

Association of Jewish Libraries
Greater Cleveland Chapter
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.


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."


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.


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.

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.


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.


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.


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.


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.


**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.


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.


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.


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 midwestern 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.


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.


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.


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.

**COMPILED BY**

Merrily Hart, formerly of Aaron Garber Library, Siegal College
Marcia Klein, Beachwood Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library
Nina Rosner, Beachwood Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library
Wendy Wasman, formerly of Fairmount Temple & The Temple-Tifereth Israel