# **TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB**

March 27, 2010



#### All Other Nights by Dara Horn

How is tonight different from all other nights? For Jacob Rappaport, a Jewish soldier in the Union army during the Civil War, it is a question his commanders have already answered for him - on Passover, 1862, he is ordered to murder his own uncle in New Orleans, who is plotting to assassinate President Lincoln. After this harrowing mission, Jacob is recruited to pursue another enemy agent, the daughter of a Virginia family friend. But this time, his assignment isn't to murder the spy, but to marry her. In this eagerly awaited third novel, award-

winning author Dara Horn brings us page-turning storytelling at its best. Layered with meaning, she presents the most American of subjects with originality and insight. Also by Dara Horn: *In The Image* and *The World to Come*.

# FURTHER READING

Available in the Maxwell Abbell Library

## "Our Crowd": The Great Jewish Families of New York by Stephen Birmingham (900.73)

Composite portrait of the great Jewish banking families of New York City who have intermarried for generations to form an elite. (Cited in Dara Horn's Author Note)

#### Judah P. Benjamin, the Jewish Confederate by Eli N. Evans (B)

Traces the life of Benjamin, the first Jewish U.S. Senator, and the Confederate Secretary of State, and describes his exile in England. (Cited in Dara Horn's Author Note)

### *The Lonely Days Were Sundays: Reflections of a Jewish Southerner* by Eli N. Evans (900.73)

A collection of essays discussing abolition, the Holocaust, American politics, and the lives of southern Jews. See also: *The Provincials: A Personal History of Jews in the South*.

### *Matzoh Ball Gumbo: Culinary Tales of the Jewish South* by Marcie Cohen Ferris (741.1)

From colonial Savannah and Charleston to Civil War era New Orleans and Natchez, from New South Atlanta to contemporary Memphis and across the Mississippi and Arkansas Deltas, Ferris examines the expressive power of food throughout southern Jewish history. She demonstrates how southern Jews reinvented traditions as they adjusted to living in a largely Christian world where they were bound by regional rules of race, class, and gender.

### American Jewry and the Civil War by Bertram W. Korn (900.73)

Chronicles roles Jews played in the Civil War and attitudes toward them; includes documents such as Jewish leaders' correspondence with President Lincoln. (Cited in Dara Horn's Author Note)

#### Memoirs of American Jews, 1775-1865 by Jacob Rader Marcus (900.73)

Three volumes of memoirs by ordinary and extraordinary American Jews. (Cited in Dara Horn's Author Note)

#### Landsman: A Novel by Peter Charles Melman (F)

In 1861, fleeing a murder charge in New Orleans, twenty-year-old Elias Abrams joins the Confederate Army, where he witnesses the horrors of war and falls in love with Nora Bloom, a young Jewish woman encouraged by her rabbi to correspond with a soldier.

#### Midnight Suppers by Susan Monsky (F)

Explores the conflicts and resonances of the relationships encompassing two men, Max Berenson and Abe Kern, both pediatricians and Jews in a community of the Deep South, Esther Berenson, Max's wife and Abe's lover, and Rebecca, Max and Esther's daughter.

#### *The Jewish Confederates* by Robert N. Rosen (900.73)

Shows that the breadth and strength of Southern Jews' commitment to the Confederate cause is undeniable. The text is supplemented with 160 photographs and illustrations - many previously unpublished and recently discovered images contributed by the descendants of Jewish Confederates. (Cited in Dara Horn's Author Note)

#### Available in the Pinsof Children's Reading Room

## *Private Joel and the Sewell Mountain Seder* by Bryna J. Fireside; illustrated by Shawn Costello (J240.6)

With permission from their commander and matzah brought in on a train from Cincinnati, Jewish members of a Civil War regiment improvise a Seder to remember.

#### The War Within: A Novel of the Civil War by Carol Matas (JF)

In 1862, after Union forces expel Hannah's family from Holly Springs, Mississippi, because they are Jews, Hannah reexamines her views regarding slavery and the war.

#### The Yankee at the Seder by Elka Weber; illustrations by Adam Gustavson (J240.6)

As a Confederate family prepares for Passover the day after the Civil War has ended, a Yankee arrives on their Virginia doorstep and is invited to share their meal, to the dismay of ten-year-old Jacob.

Rachel Kamin, CLC Director North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Highland Park 847/432-8903 x242 or rkamin@nssbethel.org March 2010 Page 2 of 2