



TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB

December 11, 2010

Harry Bernstein started chronicling his life at the age of ninety-four, after the death of his beloved wife, Ruby. His first book, *The Invisible Wall*, describes growing up in a working-class town in northern England, where Jews and Christians were strictly divided, and how his sister's love for a Christian boy broke down the invisible social barrier. Then Bernstein wrote *The Dream*, the touching tale of his family's immigrant experience in Depression-era Chicago and New York and the hardships, perils, and disappointments they were forced to confront as they chased the American Dream. Bernstein completed the saga with *The Golden Willow*, a heart-lifting memoir of his life with Ruby, a romance that lasted nearly seventy years.

FURTHER READING

Available in the Gray Cultural & Learning Center

***Lost in Translation* by Eva Hoffman (B)**

The author describes her efforts to adjust to a new culture after her parents, Holocaust survivors from Poland, moved the family from war-ravaged Cracow to North America when she was thirteen years old.

***The Soup Has Many Eyes* by Joann Rose Leonard (B)**

Based on family reminiscences, journals, notebooks, and photographs this poignant memoir chronicles one Jewish family's odyssey from Russian persecution to new lives in America.

***My Father's Houses: Memoir of a Family* by Steven V. Roberts (B)**

A multi-generational self-portrait of a New York Times correspondent's family's experiences before and after World War II recounts such events as his grandfather's work as a Zionist in Palestine, his family's relocation to America, and his parents' secret marriage.

***1185 Park Avenue* by Anne Roiphe (B)**

The author describes growing up in a family marked by her parents' troubled marriage, its impact on her and her brother, and life on New York's Park Avenue during the 1940s and 1950s.

***A Woman of Uncertain Character* by Clancy Sigal (B)**

A rebellious son of a loving, single welfare mother recounts his Depression-era childhood, during which she took him to union rallies, preached pacifism in spite of her fighting spirit, and dreamed of an idyllic life that would include a faithful husband, beautiful home, and well-behaved son.