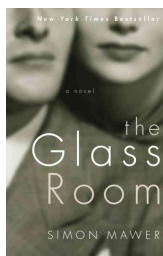


TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB

January 29, 2011



***The Glass Room* by Simon Mawer**

Newlyweds Viktor and Liesel live in decadence in their new, modern home which they name the "Landauer House." But, the radiant honesty and idealism of the 1930's quickly evaporates beneath the storm clouds of World War II. As Nazi troops enter Czechoslovakia, the family must leave their old life behind and attempt to escape to America before Viktor's Jewish roots draw Nazi attention, and before the family itself dissolves. A finalist for the 2009 Man Booker Prize.

Other books by Simon Mawer: *Gregor Mendel: Planting the Seeds of Genetics* (2006), *The Fall* (2003), *The Gospel of Judas* (2000), and *Mendel's Dwarf* (1997).

FURTHER READING

Available in the Gray Cultural & Learning Center

***Where She Came From* by Helen Epstein (B)**

A Czech-Jewish journalist searches for her mother's historical roots after her death - from the nineteenth century, to the Holocaust, and beyond - through family papers, photographs, and recollections of survivors.

***The Finkler Question* by Howard Jacobson (F)**

Julian Treslove, a radio producer, and Samuel Finkler, a Jewish philosopher, have been friends since childhood and, as they enter middle age, they reminisce over their struggles with self-identity, anti-Semitism, women, love, and the past. Winner of the 2010 Man Booker Prize.

***My Father's Roses* by Nancy Kohner (B)**

Documents the author's painful family history as revealed in a series of increasingly desperate letters that record her grandparents' life in a small town near 1918 Prague, the disintegration of their community upon the arrival of the Nazis, and the author's father's flight from Czechoslovakia in 1939.

***Breaking Ground: Adventures in Life and Architecture* by Daniel Libeskind (B)**

A noted architect, the child of Holocaust survivors, shares his iconoclastic approach to the creation of public space, his ideas about tragedy and hope and the ways in which architecture can shape and memorialize human experience, and his unique vision for the construction of the 1776 Freedom Tower at the World Trade Center site.

***The Invisible Bridge* by Julie Orringer (F)**

An unforgettable story of three brothers, of history and love, of marriage tested by disaster, of a Jewish family's struggle against annihilation, and of the dangerous power of art in a time of war.

***The Visible World* by Mark Slouka (F)**

Growing up in New York as the American-born son of Czech immigrants, the narrator journeys to Prague as an adult in the hope of learning more about his mother, Ivana, her love affair with a member of the Czech Resistance, and their possible involvement in the assassination of a high-ranking Nazi official.

***The Time of the Uprooted* by Elie Wiesel (F)**

Tormented by feelings of loss and dispossession after spending his life fleeing first the Nazis and then the 1956 Russian invasion of Hungary, Gamaliel Friedman finally settles in New York, where he works as a ghostwriter and meets a fellow group of exiles, which includes a rabbi whose mystical beliefs finally offer him a chance to reconcile with the past.

DVDs

***All My Loved Ones* (2004)**

Matej Minac's heartbreaking and poignant story of one family's experience at the onset of World War II is inspired by the heroics of English stockbroker Nicholas Winton who saved hundreds of Czech Jewish children from the Nazis and is loosely based on his own mother's personal memories of the time.

***Divided We Fall* (2001)**

In German-occupied Czechoslovakia during World War II, a young couple risks their lives to provide shelter to a Jewish neighbor only to discover that he alone can give them the security they need to keep the encroaching Nazis at bay.

***Fighter* (2001)**

Follows two men, Jan Weiner and Arnost Lustig, on a road trip into the past. Both men are survivors of Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia who now live in the US and are respected university professors but they have very different ways of dealing with memories of the Holocaust.

***Howling with the Angels* (2007)**

Jan Bodon, a young, blond-haired, blue-eyed captain in the Czech Army was recruited to join the Nazis in 1939. He promptly fled and joined the resistance movement instead, and was later selected to help in the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich. In this powerful documentary, director Jean Bodon - Jan's son - uncovers the truth not only about Jan's wartime experiences, but also that his father was secretly a Jew in a country which underwent one of the largest extermination campaigns of the war.

***The Shop on Main Street* (1965)**

An inept Czech peasant is torn between greed and guilt when the Nazi-backed bosses of his town appoint him "Aryan controller" of an old Jewish widow's button shop. Humor and tragedy fuse in this scathing exploration of one cowardly man's complicity in the horrors of a totalitarian regime. Made near the height of Soviet oppression in Czechoslovakia, it won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film in 1965.