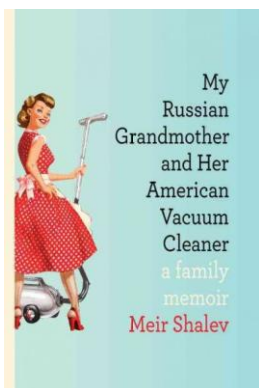


# TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB

October 13, 2012



## ***My Russian Grandmother and Her American Vacuum Cleaner* by Meir Shalev; translated by Evan Fallenberg**

From one of Israel's most celebrated novelists comes a charming tale of family ties, over-the-top housekeeping, and the sport of storytelling in Nahalal, Israel's first Moshav.

## **FURTHER READING**

**Available in the Maxwell Abbell Library**

Books by Meir Shalev:

### ***Beginnings: Reflections on Firsts in the Bible* by Meir Shalev; translated by Stuart Schoffman (220.1)**

The award-winning Israeli author shares non-traditional interpretations of famous biblical stories that recount first-time events, from the first kiss and the first love to the first hatred and the first laugh.

### ***The Blue Mountain* by Meir Shalev; translated by Hillel Halkin (F)**

Tells the stories of the founding members of the Feyge Levin Workingman's Circle, Jewish immigrants from czarist Russia who became pioneer settlers of the Jezreel Valley in Israel

### ***Close Encounters with Twenty Israeli Writers* by Eilat Negev (824)**

Meir Shalev is included in this collection of twenty profiles of prominent contemporary Israeli writers.

### ***Esau* by Meir Shalev; translated by Barbara Harshav (F)**

The biblical rivalry between Esau and his younger twin, Jacob, who tricks him out of their father's blessing, serves as the prototype for this yeasty, vibrant and sprawling modern-day family saga.

### ***The Loves of Judith* by Meir Shalev; translated by Barbara Harshav (F)**

Zayde Rabinovitch relates the story of his mother, Judith, the three men who loved her, and the mystery surrounding his paternity. Also translated as *Four Meals*.

### ***A Pigeon and a Boy* by Meir Shalev; translated by Evan Fallenberg (F)**

Mortally wounded on the battlefield during the 1948 war for Israeli independence, a young pigeon handler dispatches a final bird carrying a message to the girl he loves, while many years later, that girl's middle-aged son falls in love with a childhood friend and receives a special gift from his mother on her deathbed.

Additional Read-a-Likes:

***Mourning a Father Lost: A Kibbutz Childhood Remembered* by Avraham Balaban; translated by Yael Lotan (B)**

After his father's death, Balaban (modern Hebrew literature, U. of Florida) returned to the Israeli kibbutz where he was raised, mourning both his father's recent departure and their emotional distance as he was raised in the children's house away from his parents. The result is both a personal memoir and an examination of what Balaban sees as some of the failures of the kibbutz experiment.

***Light Fell* by Evan Fallenberg (F)**

Twenty years have passed since Joseph left his family and his religious Israeli community when he fell in love with a man. Now, for his fiftieth birthday, Joseph is preparing to have his five sons and the daughter-in-law he has never met spend the Sabbath with him in his Tel Aviv penthouse. See also: *When We Danced on Water*

***Murder on a Kibbutz: A Communal Case* by Batya Gur; translated by Dalya Bilu (F)**

Michael Ohayon, a detective last seen in the *Saturday Morning Murder* and *Literary Murder*, investigates a delicate murder case--the secretary of the kibbutz has been poisoned, and Ohayon must expose the deepest secrets of an egalitarian society.

***A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz; translated by Nicholas de Lange (B)**

The award-winning author recounts his boyhood in war-torn Jerusalem of the 1940s and 1950s, his mother's tragic suicide when he was twelve, his decision to join a kibbutz and change his name, and his participation in Israel's political upheavals.

***Scenes from Village Life* by Amos Oz; translated by Nicholas de Lange (F)**

In the fictional village of Tel Ilan, where citizens live at a crossroads between modernity, war-torn buildings, and abandoned farms, a man hears mysterious digging sounds under his house at night and the mayor finally receives a note from his missing wife.

DVDs:

***Brothers***

Two brothers that are unlike in every way, except for the fact they are both Jewish, meet again in Israel after years of silence. Dan chooses to work on the land, living in a kibbutz in the south of Israel. Aaron is a doctor of law and philosophy and a distinguished scholar of the Torah, who comes to Jerusalem to defend the rights of Torah students.

***Operation Grandma***

A satirical Israeli comedy about three very different brothers trying to get around many obstacles to bury their grandmother on her kibbutz.

***Pillar of Fire: A Television History of Israel's Rebirth***

This abridged version of the documentary series shown on Israeli television in 1986, relates the drama of the Jewish people's return to Zion and the establishment of the State of Israel.