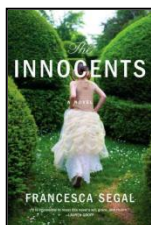


TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB

February 13, 2013



***The Innocents* by Francesca Segal**

As he prepares for his wedding, Adam Newman begins to question everything when his fiancée's beautiful young cousin moves home from New York in this contemporary version of Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* set in a small, tight-knit Jewish suburb of London.

FURTHER READING

Available in the Maxwell Abbell Library

Inspired by the Classics:

***Jane Austen in Boca* by Paula Marantz Cohen (F)**

A witty send-up of *Pride and Prejudice* set in a Florida retirement village follows a circle of retirees on a hilarious voyage of love and manners.

***Much Ado about Jessie Kaplan* by Paula Marantz Cohen (F)**

Coping with her husband's stress, her son's hyperactive behavior, and her daughter's bat mitzvah, a New Jersey suburban wife finds things going from bad to worse when her widowed mother claims that she has remembered a past-life identity.

***Foreign Bodies* by Cynthia Ozick (F)**

Presents a retelling of Henry James's *The Ambassadors* that follows the efforts of divorced schoolteacher Bea Nightingale to navigate a turbulent year spent with her estranged brother's family.

***The Saturday Wife* by Naomi Ragen (F)**

Beautiful, materialistic Delilah Levy, married to a young rabbi, finds her life beginning to unravel because of the temptations of the modern world and the incessant demands of her husband's congregation, her faith, and her life. Based on *Madame Bovary*.

***The Three Weissmanns of Westport* by Cathleen Schine (F)**

A modern tale inspired by *Sense and Sensibility* finds financially strapped literary sisters Miranda and Annie moving in with divorcee Betty in a run-down Connecticut beach cottage, where they find love amongst the suburban aristocracy.

***Disobedience* by Naomi Alderman (F)**

Learning that her father, the pre-eminent rabbi of the London Orthodox Jewish community, has passed away, Manhattan single woman Ronit Krushka returns to the home she fled years earlier and reconnects with a beloved cousin and a forbidden childhood sweetheart, only to become a threat to her former community.

***The Invisible Wall* by Harry Bernstein (B)**

an evocative memoir of forbidden love and social divide set on the eve of World War I, the author describes growing up in a mill town in northern England, in a working-class neighborhood in which the Jewish families were strictly divided from the Christian families on the other side of the street, until his older sister fell for a boy across the street. See also: *The Dream* and *The Golden Willow*.

***The Mighty Walzer* by Howard Jacobson (F)**

In 1950s Manchester, England, Oliver Walzer, a shy Jewish boy, comes of age in a household dominated by women and finds that he has a natural talent for ping-pong, but things do not go as smoothly for him when it comes to women and sex. See also: *The Finkler Question*, *Kalooki Nights*, *No More Mr. Nice Guy*, and *Zoo Time*

***The List* by Martin Fletcher (F)**

The NBC Special Correspondent uses meticulous research and his own family's history to dramatize the explosive events in London and Palestine in the years directly following World War II, following the lives of Edith and Georg, Austrian refugees struggling to stay afloat in a world riddled with terrorism, assassination attempts, and fear.

***The Clothes on Their Backs* by Linda Grant (F)**

A powerful story of family, love, and the hold the past has on the present. A woman, having endured unbearable loss, finds solace in the family secrets her estranged uncle reveals.

***A Double Thread: Growing up English and Jewish in London* by John Gross (B)**

Gross, theater critic of the *London Sunday Telegraph* and former editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*, offers a graceful, contemplative memoir of a Jewish boyhood through the age of 17, some of which took place in and around London during the years of the Nazi Blitz.

***A Conspiracy of Paper* by David Liss (F)**

An outsider in eighteenth-century London, Jewish pugilist and hired thug Benjamin Weaver prowls the city's mean streets in the service of England's gentry tracking down debtors and thieves, until the "accidental" death of his wealthy estranged father draws him into a dark conspiracy controlled by powerful men in the world of British finance. See also: *The Devil's Company*, *The Ethical Assassin*, and *A Spectacle of Corruption*.

DVDs:

An Education (2010)

In the early 1960's, 16-year-old Jenny Mellor lives with her parents in a London suburb. She is smart, pretty, and working toward her goal of being accepted into Oxford. Her life will take a big turn when she meets David, a man twice her age. Now she must decide if she will pursue an education at Oxford, or if she will choose to learn all that a charismatic older man can teach her.

Wondrous Oblivion (2003)

Eleven-year-old David Wiseman lives with the singular dream of being a cricket star, but much to the dismay and ridicule of his classmates, he is all passion and no skill. The son of a traditional Jewish family living in the racial and cultural turbulence of 1960's South London, David and his world are shaken by the unexpected arrival of the Samuels, a lively and big-hearted Jamaican family.

Sixty Six (2008)

12-year-old Bernie is ignored by his own family. His obsessive compulsive father Manny is concerned about the giant supermarket opening opposite his grocery shop, and his mother Esther is too busy worrying about Manny and Alvie, Bernie's mischievous older brother. With his upcoming Bar Mitzvah, however, Bernie believes he can finally gain the attention he deserves. He begins to plan the perfect ceremony and reception, where everyone assembled will acknowledge his new status as a man.