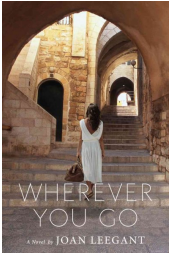


TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB

May 14, 2011



***Wherever You Go* by Joan Leegant**

Follows the lives of three strangers, each seeking personal salvation and spiritualism in Jerusalem, including a woman wishing to reconcile with her estranged sister, a Talmud teacher who has lost his faith, and a college student who drops out of his study abroad program. When an act of violence propels the intersecting of the characters' lives in a shocking climax, they are finally forced to confront the aftermath of their life choices. See also: *An Hour in Paradise*.

FURTHER READING

**More Books About Americans in Israel
Available in the Gray Cultural & Learning Center**

FICTION:

***How to Ruin a Summer Vacation* by Simone Elkeles (TF)**

***How to Ruin My Teenage Life* by Simone Elkeles (TF)**

***How to Ruin Your Boyfriends Reputation* by Simone Elkeles (TF)**

A trilogy of novels about a Chicago teen who visits Israel, falls in love with an IDF soldier, and learns to embrace her Jewish identity.

***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.

***Faith for Beginners* by Aaron Hamburger (F)**

After her college-age son, Jeremy, nearly dies from an overdose of alcohol and pills, Helen Michaelson decides to take him and her terminally ill husband on a mission to Israel in the hopes that Jeremy will reconnect with his faith, but the family vacation soon takes some unexpected turns.

***From a Sealed Room* by Rachel Kadish (F)**

The life stories of three very different women – one a college student from New York - trapped within the sealed walls of war, bound by horrific memories of the past and a sense of a perilous present, intertwine, in a novel that follows their individual struggles to break free of their confinement.

***Seven Blessings* by Ruchama King (F)**

Relocating to Jerusalem's Orthodox community, five Jewish singles come to terms with how the study of Torah affects an individual's feelings about romantic intimacy and marriage.

***Raymond and Hannah* by Stephen Marche (F)**

Their passionate love affair limited to the confines of written correspondence when Hannah leaves to spend a year in Jerusalem, Raymond and Hannah find their relationship challenged by Hannah's immersion in the world of Orthodox Judaism and Raymond's ongoing writing of his dissertation from multicultural Toronto.

***The Outside World* by Tova Mirvis (F)**

Follows the whimsical courtship and marriage of Bryan and Tzippy, the former of whom astonishes his family by rejecting their liberal way of life in favor of a strict Orthodox lifestyle, and the latter, who longs to escape the expectations of religious structure and familial obligation.

***Welcome to Heavenly Heights* by Risa Miller (F)**

Leaving the United States to live in a West Bank settlement, a group of Jewish Americans finds the order that they seek in their new daily rituals but also finds their new lives marked by unexpected and spontaneous acts of violence. See also: *My Before and After Life*.

***The Covenant* by Naomi Ragen (F)**

When her husband and daughter disappear from their violent Jerusalem community, a pregnant Elise Margulies desperately calls her grandmother in America for help and finds herself at the front lines against terrorism.

***Ten Thousand Lovers* by Edeet Ravel (F)**

A recent immigrant to Israel, Lily, a young student, finds her life turned upside down when she falls in love with Ami, a handsome former actor and Israeli army interrogator, as the horrors of his work affect their relationship.

***The Jewish War* by Tova Reich (F)**

In a near-future Israel, the fiery leader of an extremist Zionist sect begins a divine mission to recapture the sacred city of Hebron, in a satirical and timely portrait of a modern-day Masada.

***Lovingkindness* by Anne Roiphe (F)**

When her daughter calls from Israel to announce that she has joined an Orthodox Jewish group and is awaiting an arranged marriage, widow and feminist Annie Johnson must confront issues of love, faith, and parenthood.

***The Thirteenth Hour* by Barbara Sofer (F)**

Two women, an American-born biologist working in a Jerusalem hospital and an aristocratic Palestinian raised in Detroit, find themselves caught up in a web of violence and conflicting loyalties that threatens their lives.

***Who By Fire* by Diana Spechler (F)**

After the kidnapping of a younger sister, a young boy leaves his American family, moves to Israel, and becomes Orthodox. Thirteen years later, after her remains are discovered, his other sister tries to bring the family back together.

***Damascus Gate* by Robert Stone (F)**

In a novel of political intrigue and religious fanaticism set in Jerusalem, an expatriate American journalist becomes drawn into duplicity on both sides of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

NON-FICTION:

***The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago Fights Hezbollah* by Joel Chasnoff (B)**

Documents the experiences of an Ivy League-educated comedian who spent a year in the Israeli Army, a dangerous service during which he struggled with identity issues, bonded with his platoon, and suffered a haphazard relationship with a former drill sergeant.

***How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less* by Sarah Glidden (T910)**

A graphic memoir chronicles the author's Birthright trip through Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and Masada and a non-chaperoned trip into the West Bank.

***Home to Stay: One American Family's Chronicle of Miracles and Struggles in Contemporary Israel* by Daniel Gordis (910.6)**

In a collection of e-mails and dispatches, originally excerpted in The New York Times Magazine, the author describe his and his family's move from Los Angeles to Israel, their decision to make Jerusalem their permanent home, the escalation in Jewish-Palestinian tensions, and other experiences in Israel. Originally published as *If a Place Can Make You Cry*. See also: *Coming Together, Coming Apart: A Memoir of Heartbreak and Promise in Israel*.

***Shut Up, I'm Talking and Other Diplomacy Lessons I Learned in the Israeli Government* by Gregory Levey (B)**

A New York law student and speechwriter for Ariel Sharon describes his surprising placement at the Israeli Consulate, attendance of U.N. sessions, and insider witness to Middle-Eastern politics and upheavals. See also: *How to Make Peace in the Middle East in Six Months or Less Without Leaving Your Apartment*.

***Company C: An American's Life As A Citizen-Soldier in Israel* by Haim Watzman (910)**

An American-born journalist who immigrated to Israel describes his compulsory service in a reserve infantry unit, detailing his role as a soldier from 1984 to 2002 and his service in conflicts with Israel's Arab neighbors.

***Army Fatigues: Joining Israel's Army of International Volunteers* by Mark Werner (B)**

Attorney Werner chronicles life in the Volunteers for Israel, or Sar-el, an organization in which people (typically Jews) from around the world volunteer to work on Israeli military bases, performing day-to-day tasks so that Israeli military personnel are free for combat missions.

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