

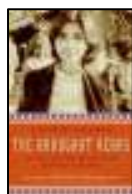
# **TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB**

January 21, 2012



## ***The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* by Lucette Lagnado**

Lucette Lagnado's father Leon is a successful Egyptian businessman and boulevardier who makes deals and trades at Shepherd's Hotel and at the dark bar of the Nile Hilton. After the fall of King Farouk and the rise of the Nasser dictatorship, Leon loses everything and his family is forced to flee, abandoning a life once marked by beauty and luxury to plunge into hardship and poverty. A vivid, heartbreaking, and powerful inversion of the American dream, this unforgettable memoir is a sweeping story of family, faith, tradition, tragedy, and triumph set against the stunning backdrop of Cairo, Paris, and New York.



## ***Arrogant Years: One Girl's Search for Her Lost Youth, from Cairo to Brooklyn* by Lucette Lagnado**

In this follow-up memoir, Lagnado tells the story of her mother, Edith, who came of age in a magical old Cairo, as well as her own story growing up in America.

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## **FURTHER READING**

Available in the Maxwell Abbell Library

### BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR:

#### ***Out of Egypt: A Memoir* by André Aciman**

The son of a flamboyant Jewish clan recounts his family's move to turn-of-the-century Alexandria, its many colorful members, its pursuit of wealth and happiness, and its struggles with anti-Semitic and anti-Western nationalism. See also: *False Papers* (824).

#### ***Too Rich: The High Life and Tragic Death of King Farouk* by William Stadiem**

Chronicles the decadent life of Egypt's King Farouk and charts his decline from the great political hope of the Middle East to a despised ruler overthrown in 1952.

#### ***Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran* by Roya Hakakian**

An Iranian American poet recounts her life as a daughter of Jewish parents growing up in Tehran, during which she witnessed the impact of the Ayatollah Khomeini's return to the nation and contemplated political asylum.

***Nasser: The Last Arab* by Saïd K. Aburish**

A portrait of late Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser considers the dilemmas that marked his rule, including his alliance with the Soviet Union despite his anti-Communist views and the military buildups that contrasted with his preference to avoid war.

***Memories of a Lost Egypt: A Memoir with Recipes* by Colette Rossant**

A James Beard Award-winning journalist presents a combination memoir and cookbook in which she describes growing up in French colonial Egypt and presents a richly exotic collection of recipes that blend a variety of cultural influences.

***My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq* by Ariel Sabar**

A journalist describes his father's birth into an isolated community of Kurdish Jews, their emigration to Israel in the 1950s, the disappearance of the ancient culture and language of the Kurdish Jews, and his and his father's journey to postwar Iraq to uncover the vanished history of a people and place.

***The Girl from Foreign: A Search for Shipwrecked Ancestors, Forgotten Histories, and a Sense of Home* by Sadia Shepard**

Traces the visit of a young Muslim-Christian to an insular Jewish community in India in search of her family's secret history, a personal quest during which she investigated her beloved maternal grandmother's lesser-known identity as a Lost Tribes of Israel descendant.

***Dream Homes: From Cairo to Katrina, An Exile's Journey* by Joyce Zonana**

Chronicles the author's quest to find a sense of home among people, foods, and places as far from her native Cairo as Oklahoma and Katrina-stricken New Orleans.

FICTION:

***Light of My Eye* by Paula Jacques**

A novel that depicts the turbulent last days of the Egyptian-Jewish community in Cairo, during the strange and ominous time between the collapse of the Egyptian monarchy and Nasser's rise to power.

***Sweet Dates in Basra* by Jessica Jiji**

After two Iraqi families--one Jewish and one Muslim--break through a wall in the 1930s to accommodate a shared water pipe, a Jewish boy falls in love with an Arab maid, whose mother is determined to preserve her daughter's honor in a land where the loss of it can be punishable by death.

***The Oracle of Stamboul* by Michael David Lukas**

In 1877 a heartbreaking tragedy leaves Eleanora Cohen marooned in Istanbul during the last days of the Ottoman Empire. But young Eleonora, clever and engaging beyond her years, soon catches the attention of the Sultan's court.

***Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith* by Gina B. Nahai**

An epic tale blending Persian and Jewish cultures travels from the Tehran's Jewish ghetto, through Turkish whorehouses, to Los Angeles as Lili, with the help of Aunt Miriam the Moon, searches for her magical mother Roxanna the Angel. See also: *Cry of the Peacock* and *Caspian Rain*.

***The Septembers of Shiraz* by Dalia Sofer**

Their serene villa life devastated by a wrongful imprisonment, the wife and children of Tehran gentleman Isaac Amin face potential betrayals within their own household and eventually plan a dangerous escape.

NON-FICTION:

**“Negotiating New Terrain: Egyptian Women at Home in America” by Audrey Nasar in *A Jewish Feminine Mystique?* edited by Hasia Diner (305 DIN)**

This essay gives voice to the thousands of Jewish women who immigrated to Brooklyn from Egypt in the 1950's and 1960's.

***Aromas of Aleppo: The Legendary Cuisine of Syrian Jews* by Poopa Dweck and Michael J. Cohen (741)**

An introduction to the culinary customs of Aleppian Judaism provides 180 lavishly illustrated recipes complemented by a discussion of Syrian-Jewish history and culture.

***Sacred Treasure - The Cairo Genizah: The Amazing Discoveries of Forgotten Jewish History in an Egyptian Synagogue Attic* by Mark Glickman (900.50)**

In 1897, Rabbi Solomon Schechter of Cambridge University stepped into the attic of a synagogue in Cairo, Egypt, and there found the largest treasure trove of medieval and early manuscripts ever discovered. This first accessible, comprehensive account of the astounding discovery of over 300,000 documents will delight readers with its fascinating adventure story--why it was amassed, how it was discovered and the many lessons to be found in its contents.

***Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza* by Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole (900.40)**

Traces the efforts of two women scholars who in 1896 traveled throughout multiple countries to recover what has become the most vital cache of Hebrew manuscripts ever discovered, in an account that profiles key contributors and explains what the findings reveal about Mediterranean Judaism throughout the past millennium.

***Fortifications and the Synagogue: The Fortress of Babylon and the Ben Ezra Synagogue, Cairo* by Phyllis Lambert (708.3)**

The Ben Ezra Synagogue, in Cairo, is best known as the synagogue in which the 'Cairo Geniza' was found. Copiously illustrated with plans, engravings, and photographs, the book describes the recent restoration of this ancient synagogue, as well as the historical and archaeological research essential to its preservation and to an understanding of the religious communities that founded modern Cairo.

***Magic Carpet: Aleppo-in-Flatbush* by Joseph A. D. Sutton (300.10)**

Details the history of the Syrian-Jewish community in New York.

DVDs:

***The Forgotten Refugees: A Film about the Mass Exodus of Jews from Arab Countries and Iran in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century***

Explores the history and destruction of Middle Eastern Jewish communities using extensive testimony of refugees from Egypt, Yemen, Libya and Iraq, dramatic archival footage of rescue missions, historic images of exodus and resettlement, and analyses by contemporary scholars.

***Monsieur Ibrahim***

Screen legend Omar Sharif is Monsieur Ibrahim, an elderly widower who owns a grocery store in a shabby, working-class section of Paris. His life takes on new meaning when he befriends Momo, a lonely Jewish teen-aged boy. In French with subtitles.