

TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB

December 10, 2011



***A Day of Small Beginnings* by Lisa Pearl Rosenbaum**

In 1906 Poland, after accidentally killing a Polish peasant, young Itzik Leiber seeks refuge from the angry mob in a Jewish cemetery, where he gains the protection of the ghost of Freidl Alterman, an experience that has profound implications for his family, who return many years later to Poland to uncover their precious lost heritage.

***Part of the One Book | One Community program sponsored by Spertus.**

FURTHER READING

Available in the Gray Cultural & Learning Center

NON-FICTION:

***The Life of Jews in Poland Before the Holocaust: A Memoir* by Ben-Zion Gold (B)**

Brings to life the world of a million Jews in pre-World War II Poland who were later destroyed by the Nazis by warmly recalling the relationships, rituals, observances, and celebrations that evoke the deep sense of family and faith.

***The Pages in Between: A Holocaust Legacy of Two Families, One Home* by Erin Einhorn (900.51)**

In a unique, intensely moving memoir, Erin Einhorn finds the family in Poland who saved her mother from the Holocaust. But instead of a joyful reunion, Erin unearths a dispute that forces her to navigate the increasingly bitter crossroads between memory and truth.

***Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* by Jan T. Gross (900.51)**

Documents the brutal 1941 massacre of 1,600 Jewish men, women, and children by their own neighbors in the Polish town of Jedwabne, offering additional examinations of the period's Jewish-Polish relations, the Holocaust, and human responses to occupation and totalitarianism.

***Fear: Anti-Semitism in Poland after Auschwitz* by Jan T. Gross (307)**

Describes the wave of anti-Semitism that swept through Poland in the years following World War II, when Jews who had fled the country returned to rebuild their lives, examining the pogroms, massacres, and conflict that destroyed a millennium of Jewish community life in Poland.

***A Vanished World* by Roman Vishniac (OVERSIZE 900.50)**

Taken between 1934 and 1939, as Vishniac walked across Poland, the Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary, Latvia, and Lithuania, these photographs preserve the stark images of Jewish life before the Nazi regime.

FICTION:

***The Seventh Beggar* by Pearl Abraham**

A modern-day young man becomes obsessed with the life and teachings of the legendary nineteenth-century Chasidic master Nachman of Bratslava, a kabbalist, storyteller, and charismatic spiritual leader who developed a cult following, in a novel intertwined with a translation of Nachman's Yiddish tales, including his "Tales of the Seven Beggars."

***The Family Orchard* by Nomi Eve**

A novel chronicling nearly two hundred years in the lives of a family of immigrants in Jerusalem captures the love affairs, legends, family secrets, triumphs, and tragedies of six generations.

***Everything is Illuminated* by Jonathan Safran Foer**

Follows a young writer as he travels to the farmlands of eastern Europe, where he embarks on a quest to find Augustine, the woman who saved his grandfather from the Nazis, and, guided by his young Ukrainian translator, he discovers an unexpected past that will resonate far into the future.

***The Polish Woman* by Eva Mekler**

Unable to believe that a young woman who has appeared in his New York office is his long-lost, presumed dead Holocaust victim cousin, attorney Philip Landau travels with the woman to their ancestral village in Warsaw to find proof about her claims.

***The River Midnight* by Lilian Nattel**

The author turns her own family history into the story of five women, Polish Jews living in a ghetto outside Warsaw before the cataclysm of World War II.

***The Family Moskat* by Isaac Bashevis Singer**

Reb Meshulam Moskat's wealthy family represents the thoughts and concerns of Jews from the end of the 19th century until the beginning of World War II.

***A Curable Romantic* by Joseph Skibell**

When Dr. Jakob Josef Sammelsohn arrives in Vienna in the 1890s, he happens to meet Sigmund Freud, has a series of affairs, is haunted by the ghost of his abandoned wife, and eventually ends up in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1940.

DVDs

***Spark Among the Ashes* (1986)**

Tells the story of Eric Strom, a thirteen-year-old Connecticut boy, who journeyed to Kraków, Poland, with his family to take part in the first bar mitzvah held in Kraków in forty years, an occasion that became the center of controversy.

***Fighter* (2000)**

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, now living in the US, but have very different ways of dealing with memories of the Holocaust.