

# **TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB**

May 12, 2012



## ***The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman**

A tale inspired by the first-century massacre at Masada presents the stories of a hated daughter, a baker's wife, a girl disguised as a warrior and a medicine woman who keep doves and secrets while Roman soldiers draw near.

## **FURTHER READING**

Available in the Maxwell Abbell Library

Non-Fiction:

### ***The Masada Myth: Collective Memory and Mythmaking in Israel* by Nachman Ben-Yehuda (910)**

Ben-Yehuda's fascinating and controversial work researching the Sicarii mass suicide at the Masada fortress claims that historical evidence does not substantiate the assertion that the group were Zealots whose last stand against the Romans has become a national rally point.

### ***Flavius Josephus: Eyewitness to Rome's First-Century Conquest of Judea* by Mireille Hadas-Label (900.20)**

Traces the life of the Jewish historian, who as a prisoner of Rome, was able to survive to recount the destruction of Jerusalem and the battle at Masada.

### ***The Jewish War* by Flavius Josephus (900.20)**

Published in Rome in Hebrew and Aramaic, *The Jewish War* is a seven volume work outlining the fundamental roots, immediate causes, and different phases of the war, and the siege and fall of Jerusalem. It is the only account of the mass suicide at Masada.

### ***The Zealots of Masada: Story of a Dig* by Moshe Pearlman (913)**

Describes the excavation of Masada, Herod the Great's stronghold built near the Dead Sea in 30 BCE.

### ***Israel in Revolution, 6-74 CE: A Political History Based on the Writings of Josephus* by David M. Rhoads (900.20)**

Using the works of Josephus as his major source, the author presents a fresh look at the Jewish resistance against Rome.

Rachel Kamin, CLC Director  
North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Highland Park  
847/432-8903 x242 or rkamin@nssbethel.org

May 2012

Page 1 of 3

***Masada: Herod's Fortress and the Zealot's Last Stand* by Yigael Yadin (913)**

Numerous pictures aid this description of the findings of the 2-year archaeological excavation of the Judean desert rock-fortress of Masada.

***Recovered Roots: Collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Tradition* by Yael Zerubavel (910)**

Zerubavel examines the construction of the Israeli national tradition by focusing on the nationalist reinterpretation of the defense of Masada against the Romans, the Bar Kokhba revolt of 133-135, and on the 1920 defense of a new Jewish settlement in Tel Hai and demonstrating how, in each case, Israeli memory transforms events that ended in death and defeat into heroic myths and symbols of national revival.

Fiction:

***The Last Man* by Peter Deutermann (on order)**

When his Israeli girlfriend goes missing after extending a theory about the haunting fortress of Masada, an American nuclear engineer travels deep into the Judean desert and makes an astonishing discovery that causes him to be targeted by rogue members of Israeli intelligence.

***Josephus: A Novel* by Lion Feuchtwanger**

A historical novel from the time of Josephus's return to Rome in 64 CE to the fall of Jerusalem and his journey to Rome to begin a writing career.

***The Wolf of Masada* by John Fredman**

Here is the epic story of a shepherd boy who without seeking glory achieves it by becoming a hero of history and the ancient world.

***The Antagonists* by Ernest K. Gann**

This is a historical character study of Eleazar Ben Yair and Flavius Silvia the opposing leaders respectively of the Siracii subgroup of the Jewish Zealots and the Roman Procurator of Judea and General of the elite 10th Roman Legion during the siege of Masada. See also *Masada: The Complete Epic Mini-Series* on DVD.

***The Mystery of Masada* by Raphael Rothstein**

The epic story of the defenders of Masada told with verve and candor. This is the revealing account of how it really was atop the rocky fortress two thousand years ago.

DVDs:

***Masada (1996)***

This A & E documentary travels back to the time of the Roman Empire to explore the legendary story and complex legacy of Masada.

***Masada: The Complete Epic Mini-Series (1981)***

This television miniseries, based on Ernest K. Gann's historical novel *The Antagonists*, is a dramatization of a documented revolt by nearly a thousand Jerusalem Jews against Roman oppressors in 72-73 CE starring Peter O'Toole and Peter Strauss.

**Available in the Pinsof Children's Reading Room**

***Masada: The Last Fortress* by Gloria D. Miklowitz (JF)**

As the Roman army marches inexorably across the Judean desert towards the fortress of Masada, Simon and his family and friends prepare, along with the rest of the Jewish Zealots, to fight and never surrender.

***Masada* by Neil Waldman (J910)**

Discusses the history of Masada, from the building of Herod's Temple through its use by Zealots as a refuge from the Romans to its rediscovery in the mid-20th century.