

TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB

March 10, 2012



***Empire Settings* by David Schmahmann**

Danny Divin becomes involved in an illicit and doomed romance with a mixed-race schoolgirl, a relationship that has a profound impact on his life and his Jewish family during the end of the apartheid era in South Africa.



***Ivory from Paradise* by David Schmahmann**

This companion novel continues the saga of the Divin family. When their beloved anti-apartheid activist mother, Helga, dies, Danny and his family return home from Boston to arrange a Jewish memorial service in their native Durban, South Africa, where they must fight their step-father for ownership of their late father's collection of African artifacts.

FURTHER READING

Available in the Maxwell Abbell Library

***Pulani: A Memoir of a Young Woman in Apartheid South Africa* by Ruchel Louis Coetzee (B)**

Unexpected challenges and an unexpected love story, this is a memoir of life in Apartheid South Africa as told by a young Jewish girl who saw her country and her life change forever.

***The Persistence of Memory* by Tony Eprile (F)**

A veteran of the secret war in Angola and Namibia, Paul Sweetbread reflects on how his life was affected by turbulence and apartheid, from his mother's removal from a Chekhov play and his education in the government's version of history to his forced appearance before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

***When a Crocodile Eats the Sun: A Memoir of Africa* by Peter Godwin (B)**

Traces how the author routinely traveled between his Manhattan home to Zimbabwe to check on his aging parents, visits during which he witnessed the African region's dramatic descent into social and political turmoil and discovered his father's true identity.

***Let Me Create a Paradise, God Said to Himself: A Journey of Conscience from Johannesburg to Jerusalem* by Hirsh Goodman (B)**

The author's personal life story is set against the backdrop of the recent history of the two divided nations in which he lived during two different eras.

***The Jews in South Africa: An Illustrated History* by Richard Mendelsohn and Milton Shain (900)**

Drawing on new research, this history surveys the diverse Jewish experience in the country over the past 200 years, since a Jewish ship surgeon stepped ashore in 1807. With numerous photographs and boxed material, they cover anti-Semitic and other challenges and the contributions of this small but prominent minority group in the old and new South Africa.

***Plumes: Ostrich Feathers, Jews, and a Lost World of Global Commerce* by Sarah Abrevaya Stein (330)**

From Yiddish-speaking Russian-Lithuanian feather handlers in South Africa to London manufacturers and wholesalers, from rival Sephardic families whose feathers were imported from the Sahara and traded across the Mediterranean, from New York's Lower East Side to entrepreneurial farms in the American West, Stein explores the details of a remarkably vibrant yet ephemeral culture. This is a singular story of global commerce, colonial economic practices, and the rise and fall of a glamorous luxury item.

DVD:

***Nowhere in Africa* (2003)**

Spanning two continents, this critically acclaimed Academy Award winner tells the true tale of a Jewish attorney and his family who flee the Nazi regime in 1938 for a remote farm in Kenya.