

# **SISTERHOOD TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB**

January 11, 2014



***Second Person Singular* by Sayed Kashua; translated from the Hebrew by Mitch Ginsburg (2012)**

A U.S. release of an award-winning novel by the creator of the Israeli sitcom, Arab Labor, follows the experiences of a highly respected Jerusalem attorney who embarks on a jealous search for his wife's ex-lover upon finding a letter in her handwriting tucked inside a used Tolstoy book.

***Let It Be Morning* by Sayed Kashua; translated from the Hebrew by Miriam Shlesinger (2006)**

A young Arab journalist returns to his hometown — an Arab village within Israel — where his already vexed sense of belonging is forced to crisis when the village becomes a pawn in the never-ending power struggle that is the Middle East.

***Dancing Arabs* by Sayed Kashua; translated from the Hebrew by Miriam Shlesinger (2004)**

When an Arab-Israeli boy begins attending an exclusive private school, he finds himself caught between a family who hates Israelis and his mainly Jewish peers, who refuse to accept him--a situation that only intensifies as he grows into a man.

***Arab Labor: The Complete First Season (DVD)***

A raucous and irreverent critically acclaimed comedy series from Israel about Amjad, a Palestinian journalist and Israeli citizen in search of his identity.

***The Kreutzer Sonata* by Leo Tolstoy**

Pozdnyshev and his wife have a turbulent relationship. When her beauty blossoms after the birth of their children, men begin to flock around her, and he becomes increasingly jealous. Convinced his wife is betraying him with a young musician, his suspicion drives him to ever more dangerous lengths.

## **READ-A-LIKES**

***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.

***The World of the End* by Ofir Gafla; translated from the Hebrew by Mitch Ginsburg**

An American release of an award-winning debut novel from Israel finds epilogist Ben Mendelssohn committing suicide after the death of his beloved wife and encountering a curious material afterlife where he reconnects with long-departed family members but cannot find his wife.

***What Do You Buy the Children of the Terrorist Who Tried to Kill Your Wife? A Memoir by David Harris-Gershon***

Describes how the author's wife was injured in an act of terrorism in Hebrew University's cafeteria, and his subsequent psychological journey digging through shadowy politics and traumatic histories.

***Map of Home by Randa Jarrar***

Nidali, the rebellious daughter of an Egyptian-Greek mother and a Palestinian father, narrates her story from her childhood in Kuwait, her early teenage years in Egypt (to where she and her family fled the 1990 Iraqi invasion), to her family's last flight to Texas.

***Suddenly, A Knock on the Door by Etgar Keret; translated from the Hebrew by Miriam Shlesinger, Sondra Silverston, and Nathan Englander***

Combines absurd, humorous, and poignant themes that reveal the fierce humanity of characters in surreal situations. See also: *The Bus Driver Who Wanted to Be God*.

***The Inbetween People by Emma McEvoy***

When Avi Goldberg, the son of a Jewish pioneer, sits at a desk in a dark cell in a military prison in the Negev desert, he fills the long nights writing about his friend Saleem, an Israeli Arab he befriended on a beach one scorching July day, and the story of Saleem's family, whose loss of their Ancestral home in 1948 cast a long shadow over their lives.

***Panther in the Basement by Amos Oz; translated from the Hebrew by Nicholas de Lange***

Set in the summer of 1947, this is a rites-of-passage novel about a lonely boy growing up in Jerusalem in the last years of British rule. From underground resistance he is drawn into friendship with the enemy, in the form of a British soldier to whom he teaches Hebrew in return for English lessons.

***Ten Thousand Lovers by Edeet Ravel***

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.

***Super Sad True Love Story by Gary Shteyngart***

In a novel set in the near future, when a beautiful, yet cruel, woman that Lenny Abramov met in Italy says she is coming to stay with him in New York, even the tanks and soldiers stationed in the city and the ongoing war with Venezuela can't get him down.

***Martyrs' Crossing by Amy Wilentz***

Israeli lieutenant Ari Doron falls in love with the wife of a jailed Palestinian militant in the midst of a wave of terrorism that he may have set into motion because of following orders to refuse to allow passage to a young mother and her ailing child.

***Jerusalem: A Family Portrait by Boaz Yakin***

A family composed of three generations and fifteen people is swept up in the chaos of war and nation-making in 1940's Israel.