

SISTERHOOD TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB

October 5, 2013



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***Sinners and the Sea: The Untold Story of Noah's Wife* by Rebecca Kanner**

A fictionalized story of Noah's wife that blends Biblical history, mythology, and the inimitable strength of women. A perfect selection for Shabbat *Noach*, Rabbi Kurtz will join us for the discussion.

FURTHER READING

Available in the Maxwell Abbell Library

ABOUT THE FLOOD:

***Noah's Flood: The New Scientific Discoveries about the Event that Changed History* by William Ryan and Walter Pitman (913)**

Basing their research on modern geophysics, computer reconstructions, oral legends, and archaeology, two professors of geology at Columbia University offer stunning evidence that the flood in the book of Genesis may have actually occurred.

***Before the Flood: The Biblical Flood as a Real Event and How it Changed the Course of Civilization* by Ian Wilson (221.371)**

Presents archaeological evidence of a significant flood around 5600 B.C.E. that raised water surfaces some three hundred feet, noting discoveries beneath the Black Sea that indicated that it used to be a freshwater lake and that houses once stood there.

***The Murmuring Deep: Reflections on the Biblical Unconscious* by Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg (220.1)**

With concepts drawn from psychoanalytic thinkers, attempts to answer the questions that scholars and rabbis have been wrestling with for centuries to give us a new understanding of the desires and motivations of the men and women whose stories form the basis of the Bible. Includes the chapter "Despondent Intoxication: The Flood."

MORE BIBLICAL FICTION:

***The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant**

In a story based on the Book of Genesis, Jacob's only daughter, Dinah, shares her unique perspectives on the origins of many of our modern religious practices and sexual politics, eager to impart the lessons in endurance and humanity she has learned from her father's wives.

***Delilah* by India Edghil**

Raised to be a priestess to the Five Cities ruling Canaan, a rebellion-wary Delilah sets out to capture reluctant Israelite warrior Samson, who falls in love with Delilah and forces the young priestess to question her heart and loyalties.

***Queenmaker: A Novel of King David's Queen* by India Edghill**

A retelling of the biblical story of King David and Queen Michal follows Michal, who lived and reigned in David's court for more than forty years, as she speaks about her hopes and fears while war, betrayal, death, and prophecy rage through the Promised Land.

***Wisdom's Daughter* by India Edghill**

A tale based on the biblical story of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba follows the queen's search for an heir; the lessons Solomon and she learned about truth, love, and duty; and her daughter's efforts to achieve a position of power.

***The Garden of Ruth* by Eva Etzioni-Halevy**

Several generations after the beautiful Moabite widow Ruth marries Boaz, fifteen-year-old Osnath, a young woman from Ramah, comes to Bethlehem to spend time with relatives and to uncover the true story of Ruth, only to fall prey to the seduction of her cousin Eliab as she learns that Ruth had an unnamed lover before her marriage to Boaz.

***The Song of Hannah* by Eva Etzioni-Halevy**

Once close childhood friends, Hannah and Pninah are now rivals for the attention of their husband Elkanah, but they must put aside their differences to protect themselves, their husband, and Hannah's son, Samuel, a man who is destined to become one of the great prophets of the Jewish people.

***The Triumph of Deborah* by Eva Etzioni-Halevy**

A fictional account of how the biblical heroine Deborah saves the Israelites from destruction at the hands of their Canaanite enemies by coercing the warrior Barak to launch a preemptive strike in which he succeeds against all odds.

***Lilah: A Forbidden Love, a People's Destiny* by Marek Halter**

Lilah, the sister of Ezra, the high priest destined to lead the Jews back to Jerusalem, gives up her plans to marry a Persian warrior for her faith, but when her brother orders all Jewish men to abandon their foreign-born wives, Lilah rebels.

***Sarah* by Marek Halter**

Born into a world of luxury in the ancient Sumerian city of Ur, Sarah flees the arranged marriage planned by her father, a decision that leads to an encounter with Abram, a member of a nomadic tribe of outsiders.

***Zipporah, Wife of Moses* by Marek Halter**

Focuses on the life of Zipporah, the adopted Ethiopian daughter of Jethro, high priest of the Midanites, who became the consort of Moses and who played a vital role in supporting Moses in returning to Egypt to lead the Israelite slaves to freedom.

***God Knows* by Joseph Heller**

On his death bed, David, warrior-king of Israel, reflects on his life, future representations of him, and his troublesome family, while he awaits God's apology.

***The Gilded Chamber: A Novel of Queen Esther* by Rebecca Kohn**

A retelling of the life of the Jewish heroine follows the future queen from her youth as an orphan, her selection as the wife of a powerful Persian king, and the sacrifices she makes in order to save her people from annihilation.

***Seven Days to the Sea: An Epic Novel of the Exodus* by Rebecca Kohn**

Miriam, Moses' sister, watches over him as he grows up in Egypt and sacrifices her own happiness to help him fulfill his destiny, while his wife, Tzipora, a follower of the Goddess, questions his role and the harshness of his God.

***The Preservationist* by David Maine**

The wife and children of Noe, who has been directed by God to build an ark, witness the ark's construction and assist in gathering myriad animals before finding themselves trapped within the ark during a cataclysmic flood.

***Naomi's Song* by Selma Silverberg**

Elaborates on the biblical story of Naomi, who grows up and marries in twelfth century B.C. Judaea, moves with her husband and sons to Moab, and returns home with her daughter-in-law Ruth, facing many trials with faith and perseverance.

***Moses in Sinai* by Simone Zelitch**

Presents a fictionalized account of the life of the biblical figure, Moses.