



Reverend Katz Library

June 2019

This is a good time of the year, to keep out of the cold and to enjoy some interesting books from our library.

We are very happy in the increased amount of borrowing from our library, but please check your shelves to ensure that all borrowed books are returned by placing them in the box outside the library or on the shelf in the library, next to the Borrowing Book.

Reviews of some of our new books

Joshua Teplitsky, Prince of the press: How one collector built history's most enduring and remarkable Jewish Library. HIS TEP

The story of one of the largest collections of Jewish books, and the man who used his collection to cultivate power, prestige, and political influence

David Oppenheim (1664–1736), chief rabbi of Prague in the early eighteenth century, built an unparalleled collection of Jewish books and manuscripts, all of which have survived and are housed in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. His remarkable collection testifies to the myriad connections Jews maintained with each other across political borders, and the contacts between Christians and Jews that books facilitated. From contact with the great courts of European nobility to the poor of Jerusalem, his family ties brought him into networks of power, prestige, and opportunity that extended across Europe and the Mediterranean basin. Containing works of law and literature alongside prayer and poetry, his library served rabbinic scholars and communal leaders, introduced old books to new readers, and functioned as a unique source of personal authority that gained him fame throughout Jewish society and beyond. The story of his life and library brings together culture, commerce, and politics, all filtered through this extraordinary collection. Based on the careful reconstruction of an archive that is still visited by scholars today, Joshua Teplitsky's book offers a window into the social life of Jewish books in early modern Europe.

Gary Nash, The Tarasov Saga: from Russia through China to Australia. BIO TAR

This is a moving account of a close-knit family during a tumultuous era. Colonel Tarasov and his wife Aida and their five children suffered the traumas of the Revolution and Civil War. They fled to China, lived under the Japanese Occupation, then became displaced persons on a remote island camp in the Philippines before settling in Australia. This title is told by their grandson Gary Nash (Igor Ivashkoff).

Van Tonder, Gary, Irgun: Revisionist Zionism 1931-1948, ISR VAN

In October 1944, the US Office of Strategic Services described the Irgun Tsvai Leumi – National Military Organization – as 'an underground, quasi-military organization with headquarters in Palestine ... fanatical Zionists who wish to convert Palestine and Transjordan into an independent Jewish state ... advocate the use of force both against the Arabs and the British to achieve this maximal political goal'.

In 1925, Ze'ev Jabotinsky founded the Revisionist Zionism organization, whose secular, right-wing ideology would lead to the formation of the Irgun and, ultimately, of the Likud Party. Commencing

operations in the British Mandate of Palestine in 1931, Irgun adopted a mainly guarding role, while facilitating the ongoing immigration of Jews into Palestine. In 1936, Irgun guerrillas started attacking Arab targets. The British White Paper of 1939 rejected the establishment of a Jewish nation, and as a direct consequence, Irgun guerrillas started targeting the British.

The authorities executed captured Irgun operatives found guilty of terrorism, while deporting hundreds to internment camps overseas. As details of Jewish genocide – the Holocaust – emerged, Irgun declared war on the British in Palestine. Acts of infrastructural sabotage gave way to the bombing of buildings and police stations, the worst being the bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem – the hub of British operations and administration – in July 1946, killing ninety-one. Freedom fighters or terrorists – Irgun was only dissolved when the independent Jewish state of Israel was born on 14 May 1948. This is their story.

Iris Makler, *Just add love: Holocaust survivors share their stories and recipes.* COO MEK

A tribute to the last living Holocaust survivors, this moving combination of stories and recipes will touch your heart and inspire you to cook for the people you love.

Moving stories. Delicious recipes. The power of food to bring family together. When a child cooks with their grandmother they learn much more than a recipe - they absorb culture and family history, and start to discover their place in the world.

This book contains the testimonies of Holocaust survivors, their extraordinary stories - and also their recipes - captured while they cook traditional meals with their grandchildren.

Just Add Love is a work of history and photography, a cookbook and a testament to the last generation of survivors in Australia, as they transmit history, culture, sustenance and love through the powerful ritual of food. This unique and moving combination of stories and recipes will touch your heart and inspire you to cook for the people you love, and to gather around the table together. Like grandma encouraged you to.

Jessica North, *Esther: The extraordinary true story of the first fleet girl who became first lady of the colony.* BIO ABR

The little-known rags to riches love story of a convict girl who arrived in Australia on the First Fleet. Much like another, better-known colonial woman, Elizabeth Macarthur, Esther successfully managed her husband's property and became a significant figure in the new colony.

Esther only just escaped the hangman in London. Aged 16, she stood trial at the Old Bailey for stealing 24 yards of black silk lace. Her sentence was transportation to the other side of the world.

She embarked on the perilous journey on the First Fleet as a convict, with no idea of what lay ahead.

Once on shore, she became the servant and, in time, the lover of the dashing young first lieutenant George Johnston. But life in the fledgling colony could be gruelling, with starvation looming and lashings for convicts who stepped out of line.

Esther was one of the first Jewish women to arrive in the new land. Through her we meet some of the key people who helped shape the nation. Her life is an extraordinary rags-to-riches story. As leader of the Rum Rebellion against Governor Bligh, George Johnston became Lieutenant-Governor of NSW, making Esther First Lady of the colony, a remarkable rise in society for a former convict.

Elana Benjamin, My mother's spice cupboard: a journey from Baghdad to Bombay to Bondi. BIO BEN

My Mother's Spice Cupboard is the true story of the author's Sephardic Jewish family's journey from Baghdad to Bombay (now Mumbai) to Sydney. Unlike most other Diaspora Jews, the author's parents were born and grew up in Bombay, and her grand-parents were from Iraq, Burma and India. Her father's family immigrated to Australia; her mother's to the United States; both in the 1960s. Her parents married in Sydney and raised their family there, alongside members of their former Bombay community. My Mother's Spice Cup-board is the story of what happened to a community which no longer exists, how its members built new lives in different countries, and what it was like to grow up as one of their children. It's also about how much things have changed over four generations in one family, and to what extent upbringing is influenced by culture, language and cuisine. The themes underlying the story are those of family and community. And underlying the entire narrative is the importance of food and cooking, which goes beyond the mere provision of sustenance to express warmth, love and hospitality.

Alon Dov, A long night in Paris. F ALF

When an Israeli tech exec disappears from Charles de Gaulle airport with a woman in red, logic dictates youthful indiscretion. But Israel is on a state of high alert nonetheless. Colonel Zeev Abadi, the new head of Unit 8200's Special Section, just happens to have arrived on the same flight. For Commissaire Léger of the Paris Police, all coincidences are suspect. When a second young Israeli from the flight is kidnapped, this time at gunpoint from his hotel room, his suspicions are confirmed – and a diplomatic crisis looms. As the race to identify the victims and the reasons behind their abductions intensifies, a covert Chinese commando team watches from the rooftops, while hour by hour the morgue receives fresh bodies from around Paris.

This could be one long night in the City of Light