



Jewish Books in Review

is a service of the JWB Jewish Book Council,
15 East 26th St., New York, N.Y. 10010

Now that winter is here it is the time for special reading projects. How nice it is to curl up on the couch or a comfortable chair while the fireplace is aglow. Whatever your need or desire, there is something in this list of books of Jewish content to please all types of readers.

By Irene S. Levin

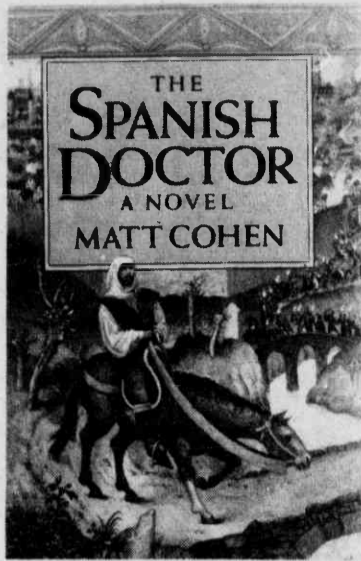
Reading *Birthright* by Joseph Amiel (Atheneum, 1985, \$17.95) is a memorable experience. The heroine, Deborah de Kronengold, is red-haired and blue-eyed in a family where both parents and an older brother have dark hair and eyes. When she is six, she is told that she was brought to the family from a convent orphanage in Italy and adopted. Grandfather Samuel, Uncle Pierre, and cousin Nathan appear to know more about her parentage than they are willing to tell. It is a well-kept secret which Deborah is determined to unlock.

At eighteen years of age, she is told by her father that in the absence of any will she is living on his charity. The family business, an investment banking empire, will not admit a woman. Without a name or financial support she is alone. Deborah elects to leave London for New York City and a new life with her meager savings. She is determined to build a financial empire which will eventually engulf that of the de Kronengolds.

It takes seventeen years, working at more than one job, attending school at night, saving and investing carefully. Then, using the knowledge gained through years of watching and learning from grandfather Samuel, Deborah moves into gold speculation with the help of old friends and begins her financial empire. The reader is behind the scenes in the money markets of the world, the golf courses, offices, and restaurants where deals are made and strategy planned. Deborah discovers her roots, achieves her goals, and realizes what is important in her life. You won't want Deborah's story to end.

Gloria Goldreich's *Leah's Children* (MacMillan, 1985, \$16.95) continues where *Leah's Journey* ended. Set in a panorama of world history in the fifties, sixties, and seventies, is a tale of youngsters grown into mature men and women with a commitment to making this a better world.

Leah's life is increasingly delineated by the needs and accomplishments of her children. Aaron is a lawyer specializing in immigration law, which leads to his involvement in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. Rebecca is an internationally known painter



family during the thirties, when one was expected to marry after high school, raise a family, and be happy. Faye did this, then went to college and made another life for herself as a teacher when her children were grown. There is an inner beauty in these pieces which provide insights to a maturing mind and the thread of a life which changes as needs must be met.

If you like historical fiction, Matt Cohen's *The Spanish Doctor* (Beaufort Books, Inc., 1984, \$16.95) is a discovery. With a swashbuckling hero, Avram Halevi and the beautiful Jewess of Toledo, Gabriela, this story of the Jews of Spain in the years 1369 to 1409 is historically accurate and replete with little-known details of life at the time. We follow our physician hero from Toledo in Spain to Montpellier in France where he teaches and studies at the Medical Academy. A portion of the story takes place in Bologna, Italy and ends in Kiev, Russia. The inquisition, the Catholic Church and the plight of the Jews are all part of the story. A wonderful way to study history.

who must come to terms with her fears for her Israeli family. Michael discovers his own capacities and needs when he becomes involved in the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi. Goldreich has managed to so involve the reader in the lives of her characters that we can think of no better way to spend an evening than in savoring every word.

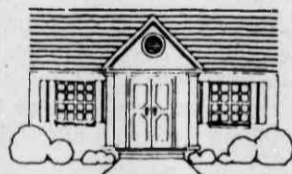
Subtitled "Tales From A Woman's Heart," Faye Moskowitz's *A Leak in the Heart* (David R. Godine, 1985, \$14.95) is notable both for its content and slim size.

It reminds one of Tillie Olsen's *Tell Me A Riddle*. Faye has chosen the short essay method to tell the story of her life in an Orthodox Jewish

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What's Coming Up On WTVI

Two very special programs will air on WTVI (Channel 42) this month. *Jews of Moscow: An Inside Story Special Edition* will be on Saturday, January 18 at 3 p.m. The lives of Jews living in Moscow and trying to maintain their religious and cultural identity in the face of Soviet state control are depicted in this film. The film also discusses future prospects for Jewish emigration from USSR.

Heritage: Civilization and the Jews which aired last year and met with much acclaim has been brought back again. It is a 9-part series of 60-minute programs. Its first episode is on Saturday, January 25 at 3:30 p.m. The subsequent programs will air on Saturdays at 3 p.m.

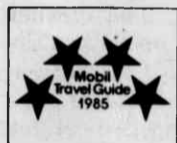
It is a monumental production chronicling over 3,000 years of Jewish history in the context of other Western civilizations. Filmed and researched over four years in more than 18 nations on four continents, *HERITAGE*, hosted and narrated by Abba Eban, uses art and artifacts, historical sites, and primary literary sources to tell its story. The series investigates the origin and evolution of attitudes and practices that have become the heritage of all Jewish men and women today. The series won three Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award, and a CINE Golden Eagle Certificate, among other awards. This is a college television course licensed by the PBS Adult Learning Service.

The order of presentation is as follows:

1. "A People Is Born" (13th Century B.C.E. to 6th Century B.C.E.)
2. "The Power of the Word" (6th Century B.C.E. to 2nd Century C.E.)
3. "The Shaping of Traditions" (1st to 9th Centuries)
4. "The Crucible of Europe" (9th to 15th Centuries)
5. "The Search for Deliverance" (1492-1789)
6. "Roads from the Ghetto" (1789-1917)
7. "The Golden Land" (1654-1932)
8. "Out of the Ashes" (1917-1945)
9. "Into the Future" (1945-Present)



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