

Speizman Jewish Library

ACIMAN continued from page 1

ignored by the Egyptian headmistress, Miss Badawi. In one of the most disturbing passages of the book, Aciman recalls being forced to memorize, in Arabic, a vehemently anti-Semitic poem: "The poem was accompanied by an illustration of a young Egyptian soldier waving a scimitar at three men clothed in three tattered flags. The third, a bald, short man with wiry sideburns, a large hooked nose, and a pointed beard, was shabbily draped in the Star of David. I looked at the twenty-line poem and found myself sweating as I stared at words that were literally swimming on the page. 'My eyes are burning,' I said.

Shortly after this incident, Aciman's father's textile factory was "nationalized" (a euphemism meaning it had been seized by the Egyptian government), and the family began to be harassed nightly by an anonymous telephone caller who seemed to know their every move. Yet they continued to cling to Alexandria until finally notified that they were to be forcibly expelled. Their last week in Alexandria was a blur of frantic packing and attempts to sell their furniture, and in the midst of this, Passover was due to fall on the eve of the family's departure. Aciman's grief at the prospect of leaving, and the irony of the timing of events, is evident when he refuses his elderly aunt's pleas to help read the Haggadah during their last seder in Egypt: "Each time I refused, she would remind me that it was the last time this dining room would ever see a seder... 'Are you ashamed of being Jewish? Is that it? What kind of Jews are we, then?' she kept asking. 'The kind who don't celebrate leaving Egypt when it's the last thing they want to do,' I said." Later

that evening, after the meal, Aciman remembers walking alone along the seafront, taking care to dedicate the memories of this last night in Alexandria to the realm of the sacred... "I knew, that I would always remember this night... that there would never be another night like this... not this year nor any other year... I had caught myself longing for a city I never knew I loved."

On Sunday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m., in the JCC's Gorelick Hall, Andre Aciman will discuss the city he loved, his eccentric, exotic, and loving Sephardic family, and the vanished world of Jews in Arab lands; less than 16,000 remain in Arab nations today. A patrons' reception honoring the author, sponsored by the family of Al Rouso in celebration of their own Sephardic roots, will follow the evening's program.

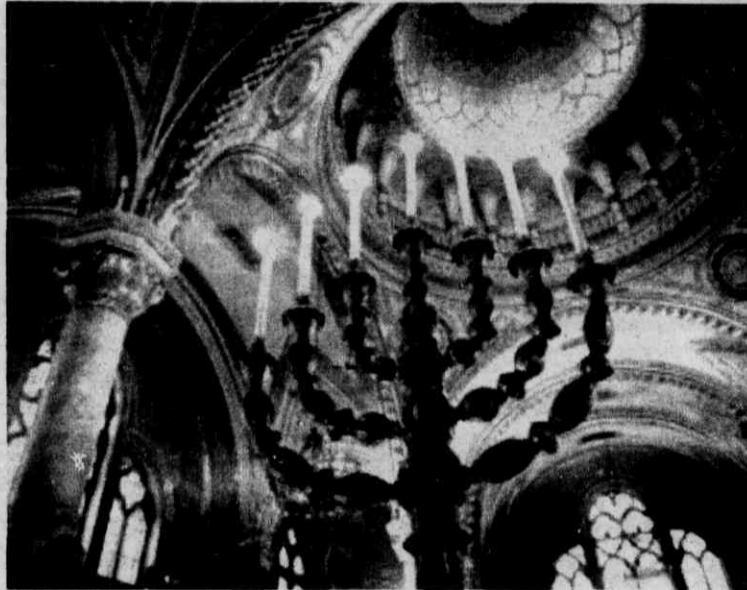
Tickets for this year's Book and Author Evening will be available for \$5.00 at the front desk of the JCC beginning December 1, and will also be available at the door. Additional donations are being sought to help defray the costs of the program. Donor levels are \$250.00 for Grand Patrons; \$100.00 for Patrons; and \$36.00 for Benefactors. Contact Roz Cooper, fundraising chairperson, at 366-5007 ext. 257, to make a donation. Grand Patrons will receive a complimentary copy of *Out of Egypt*. Others can purchase the book for \$20.00 at the JCC Front Desk beginning November 1. For further information, please contact Amalia Warshenbrot, Speizman Jewish Library, 366-5007 ext. 258.

The Book and Author Event Committee gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Mann Travels and Gary and Maxine Silverstein for making travel arrangements for Dr. Aciman.

This beautiful book of color photography is now available at the Speizman Jewish Library

AND I SHALL DWELL AMONG THEM: Historic Synagogues of the World

Photographs and commentary by Neil Folberg
Historical Essay by Yom Tov Assis



AND I SHALL DWELL AMONG THEM is a book that will speak to many people; it spans the world portraying architecture, art, and history as brilliant reflections of the Jewish Diaspora. This is a story that has never before been thoroughly told through photographs. The book itself is a work of art-vibrant in its color, composition, and the sheer beauty of its photography. In the extraordinary variety, and the intimacy and richness of their detail, the photographs reveal how the world's synagogues form what Folberg has called "a crown for the Jewish people."

Augmenting the photographs is a fascinating and informative essay focusing on the social and cul-

tural history of the Jews by Yom Tov Assis, a distinguished author and scholar of Jewish culture and history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

A former student and colleague of the late Ansel Adams, Neil Folberg is widely known for his large-and medium-format color photography. In *AND I SHALL DWELL AMONG THEM: HISTORIC SYNAGOGUES OF THE WORLD*, Folberg has photographed synagogues in a manner that conveys the glory, mystery, and passion inherent in these houses of worship, dedicated to the believing Jew's relationship with God. Folberg currently lives with his family in Jerusalem.

NEW ON THE SHELF

The following is a small sample of recent acquisitions:

ADULT FICTION

Circling Eden- A novel of Israel by C. Magun
Beach Music by Pat Conroy
Justice by Faye Kellerman

ADULT NON FICTION

Mixed Matches by Dr. Y. Crohn

YOUNG ADULTS

Broken Bridge by Lynne Reid Banks
Are You Alone On Purpose by N. Werlin

CHILDREN

Thunder Cake by Patreicia Polacco
I Remember by K.L. Krashopolsky

HOLOCAUST (Young Adults)
The Shadow Children by S. Schnur
We Are Witnesses by J. Boas
Nightfather by C. Friedman
Tell Them We Remember by S.D. Bachrach

HOLOCAUST (Children)
The Feather Bed Journey by P.K. Feder

We thank Halailah B'nai B'rith Women for their help in the purchase of childrens books. The book *Mixed Matches* was purchased through Federation Interfaith Committee Support. All other books were purchased thanks to donations to the Speizman Fund.

For more information please call 366-5007 Ext: 258

Jewish Book Month: Who Knows Two? I Know Two...

"Two tablets of the covenant"...? No, TWO JEWISH BOOK FAIRS! That's right, this year's celebration of Jewish Book Month features not one, but TWO separate book fairs... TWO opportunities to select special Chanukah gifts, to add to your own or your children's Jewish book collections or simply to come browse and enjoy the wide range of titles that will be available for purchase. The fairs will feature books of Jewish content or by Jewish authors that are appropriate for all ages. The first fair will take place on Sunday, November 19, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Adult Lounge of the JCC. The second fair will be on Sunday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the same location.

Jewish Book Month began over seventy years ago as Jewish Book Week at a synagogue in Bos-

ton. As other organizations started to pick up the idea, the Jewish Book Council, now headed by executive director Carolyn Hessel, took over the event and made it national. Traditionally held thirty days before Chanukah, the purpose of Jewish Book Month and the book fairs "is to bring Jewish books to the people," according to Hessel.

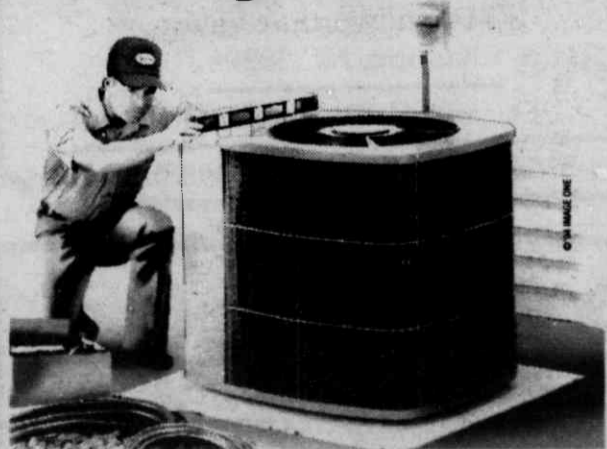
Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to expand your horizons. Remember, Charlotte's Jewish Book Fairs feature many titles that aren't ordinarily available at area bookstores. The Pirke Avot says, "Let your house be a meeting place for the sages." Buying a book at one of this year's book fairs will help this come true for you and your family. Proceeds from the fairs will benefit the Speizman Jewish Library. For more information on Jewish Book Month or the fairs, please contact Amalia Warshenbrot at the Speizman Jewish Library, 366-5007 ext. 258.



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