



Speizman Jewish Library



Hats Off to Our Young Readers

In a world where books have to compete with the internet, children's books win. Sharon Eshet learned to appreciate freedom of religion from reading a biography of Golda Meir. Shayna Bernstein, who read a holocaust fiction, learned that it is important to think before you talk. Hannah Hindel, who also read a holocaust fiction, felt that learning about the holocaust is the only way to prevent this evil from ever happening again.

These three young students participated in our essay contest. They selected Jewish books from the Speizman Jewish Library and followed our guidelines of evaluating the books. The essays below were selected from essays submitted by Temple Beth El fifth grade students. The judges were very impressed by all the essays and have awarded the first place to Hannah Hindel, second place Sharon Eshet and the third to Shayna Bernstein. Mazel Tov to the winners and to their teacher, Rebecca Plaisance

Our Golda by David A. Adler Reviewed by Sharon Eshet



Sharon Eshet

Our Golda is telling how Jews had to struggle in the past and Golda helped them. I recommend this book because it shows how determined Jews had to be to fight for their religion. This book helped me understand how lucky I am to be free. I think we can all learn from this book not to ask for more, but to be thankful for what we have. The Jews in the past struggled to keep their religion. We are free now. This is our chance to practice our religion freely; to pray, to go to temple, to keep kosher, and to keep Shabbat.

Throughout her lifetime, Golda held many responsibilities. She was a Prime Minister, a shopkeeper, a school teacher, a librarian, an almond picker, and fund raiser and many more things. She had two sisters, Sheyna and Tzipke. Golda married Morris Meyerson in 1917. They traveled from place to place, and finally, had two children, Menachem and Sarah. Because of the Nazis, six million men, women and children were killed for being Jews. This made Golda more and more determined to give the Jews a homeland. Over the years, Golda gave speeches. She spoke from her heart and mind. Her wish for a homeland came true. "Thank you," she said "for being Jews."

Star of Fear, Star of Hope by Jo Hoestlandt Reviewed by Shayna Bernstein



Shayna Bernstein

I liked this book. It talks about the Holocaust, but I think it's really about friendship. You may say something that you will regret, but once your friend leaves, they may never come back. In the book, Helen tells her best friend Lydia that she isn't her friend anymore because Lydia had to leave in the middle of Helen's birthday sleepover. Lydia had to leave because she was Jewish and the Nazis were invading France, her home.

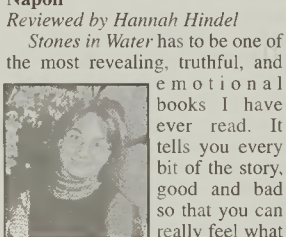
I liked the main characters. Lydia is a very calm, quiet type that doesn't talk very much. Helen is the exact opposite. She is very outgoing and is not afraid to speak her mind. What I like about them both is that they both care about each other. After Helen said that she didn't want to be Lydia's

friend anymore, she immediately felt sorry and wished that she hadn't said that. Lydia made a present for Helen for her birthday by herself. These examples show that they care about each other.

When I read this book, I felt very sad. I was sad for Helen, for Lydia, and for all the Jews that were taken away that night and all throughout the Holocaust. The first time I read this book, the following statement at the end of the book made me cry: "Stars in the morning, better take warning. Stars at night, hope is in sight. I'll always have hope."

I think that this book teaches people to think before they talk because what you say could end up haunting you for the rest of your life.

Stones in Water by Donna Jo Napoli Reviewed by Hannah Hindel



Hannah Hindel

Stones in Water has to be one of the most revealing, truthful, and emotional books I have ever read. It tells you every bit of the story, good and bad so that you can really feel what it was like to be in the

Holocaust. The story, which was based on reality, tells of non-Jewish and Jewish children alike captured, beaten, killed. In one part, a little Jewish girl who is aged 6 or 7 grabs a barbed wire fence and doesn't get hurt but then a Nazi comes and just tweaks the wires. They swing back and hit the little girl in the face, ripping open her lips. The Nazis were terrible. I think that it was horrible how the Jews and innocent bystanders both were treated like pure scum on the German's shoe. The people in the

learn more so I can try to prevent this evil from ever happening again. I think that *Stones in Water* did a terrific job of portraying the role of a non-Jewish Italian boy finding out, personally, the perils of the Holocaust. I became aware of the devastation and death. I felt empty and scared because this could just as easily be me. My non-Jewish grandmother whose father was Jewish could have been killed since she lived in Berlin as a child. At the age of 11, exactly my age, she was fortunate enough to escape with her family to the United States. For this reason this book is very personal to me. *Stones in Water* is a fantastic book. ☆

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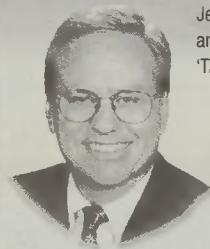


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Mr. Sam Lebowitz, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Stern, Jane and Robin Allred, Ms. Daphne Koenigsberg, The Brandt Family, given in memory of Herbert Offen, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Gould, given in honor of Scott Gould's bar mitzvah, Mr. and Mrs. David Gamlin. ☆

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Representative Sue Myrick Declares Her Support for Israel

The following is from the Congressional Record of April 24, 2002.

Mrs. Myrick: "Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the situation in the Middle East that is of grave concern to all of us.

"Since September 11, we have had a taste of normal life in Israel. Americans have experienced the fear, the terrorist alerts, the military and police presence at airports and public sites and we don't like it. Yet we must have it because we are at war with terrorists just as Israel is at war with terrorists.

"We must stand by Israel as

they work to eliminate terrorism in their homeland and we try to do the same thing in the United States. We must stand by Israel as they fight for their very own survival and as we fight for ours.

"As President Bush said in his address to Congress, we must root out terrorism and all those organizations that support it.

"It is time we firmly support our Israeli friends in their fight against terrorism. We must join Israel now and continue this fight until the wrath of terrorism is ended." ☆

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