

Book Reviews

Gift Books for Jewish Book Month

Jewish Book Month is an annual celebration of Jewish Books and their importance in Jewish life. This year, the observance runs from November 16 to December 16. To mark the occasion, the JWB Jewish Book Council has prepared a suggested list of books for gift giving. Information about Jewish Book Month is available from the Jewish Book Council, 15 East 26th Street, New York, NY 10010. (212) 532-4949.

Atlas of Israel: Third Edition. Ron Adler, et al., eds. The Survey of Israel and Macmillan Publishing. \$175.00 Know someone you like a lot? This oversize atlas (19¼ x 13½ inches) includes 40 sheets of maps, about two-thirds of them devoted to settlement patterns and economic geography. The text and map legends are in both Hebrew and English.

Ben-Gurion: The Burning Ground, 1886-1948. Shabtai Teveth. Houghton Mifflin & Co. \$35.00. A biography of David Ben-Gurion that concentrates on the early part of his career. Teveth sees Ben-Gurion as a complicated personality, flawed but with a singleness of purpose and tenacity that made him an important leader and statesman.

The Family Mashber. Der Nister (Pinhas Kahonovitch); translated from the Yiddish by Leonard Wolf. Summit Books. \$22.95. Der Nister (Yiddish for "the hidden one") is a major figure of 20th-

century Yiddish literature. This is the first English translation of a novel written in the 1930s about Jewish life in 19th-century Russia, and left incomplete at the author's death.

The Holy Land from the Air. Amos Elon (text) and Richard Nowitz (photos). Harry N. Abrams, Inc. \$39.95. The color photos in this book show Israel from the air, with pictures of Byzantine basilicas, Crusader castles, the caves at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, the Western Wall, and other landmarks. Captions describe the historical and religious significance of each site.

Judaism: An Introduction for Christians. James Limburg, translator and ed. Augsburg Publishing House. \$5.95 pap. If you know a Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Judaism, this book is an excellent choice.

Paper Roses: Selected Poems of Rachel Korn. Rachel Korn;

translated from the Yiddish by Seymour Levitan; illustrated by Paul and Bette Davies. Aya Press, P.O. Box 1153, Station F, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2T8, Canada. \$7.50 pap. An attractively produced collection of poems by Canadian poet Rachel Korn (1898-1982). The poems, presented in Yiddish and in English, explore the relations between people, the nature of poetry and language, and the poet's relationships with her mother and with God.

The Penguin Book of Modern Yiddish Verse. Irving Howe, Ruth R. Wisse, and Khone Shmeruk, eds. Viking Penguin. \$29.95. A bilingual anthology of poems by 39 modern Yiddish poets, with extensive selections from Moyshe Leyb-Halpern, Perets Markish, Moyshe Kulbak, Jacob Glatstein, Itsik Manger and Abraham Sutzkever.

Tevey the Dairyman and the Railroad Stories. Sholem Aleichem; translated from the Yiddish, with an Introduction, by Hillel Halkin. Schocken Books. \$19.95. The first volume in a new series entitled "The Library of Yiddish Classics" includes new translations of the stories about Tevey as well as the twenty-one Railroad Stories, which are also known as "Notes of a Commercial Traveler."

West to Eden. Gloria Goldreich. Macmillan Publishing. \$18.95. The most recent work by a best-selling novelist. The main character is Emma Coen, a young Jewish woman who emigrates to America to find a better life, settling in Galveston in the late 1890s. The story spans 50 years, telling of her passionate but troubled marriage and the problems she faces in maintaining a Jewish home in a land which finds these customs alien.

For Younger Readers

The Children's Jewish Holiday Kitchen. Joan Nathan. Schocken Books. \$10.95 spiral binding. This cookbook designed for cooking with children includes 50 recipes, each broken down into parts that a child can do alone, those that an adult should do, and those that they can do together. Information about the customs, meaning, and special foods of the Jewish holidays is included.

Exodus. Miriam Chaikin; illustrated by Charles Mikolaycak. Holiday House. \$14.95. ISBN 0-8234-0607-5. The central events of the Exodus from Egypt are retold in this dramatically illustrated book. Ages 7 to 10.

Jewish Stories One Generation Tells Another. Peninnah

Schram; illustrated by Jacqueline Kahane. Jason Aronson Inc. \$30.00. A collection of sixty-four traditional Jewish folktales, retold to be read aloud to children. Each story has a brief introduction explaining its background and meaning, and there is a glossary.

Joseph Who Loved the Sabbath. Marilyn Hirsh; illustrated by Devis Grebu. Viking Penguin. \$10.95. A retelling of a tale from the Talmud about a poor man named Joseph who worked hard so that he could buy only the finest things for the Sabbath, and who eventually inherits his greedy master's wealth. Ages 4 to 8.

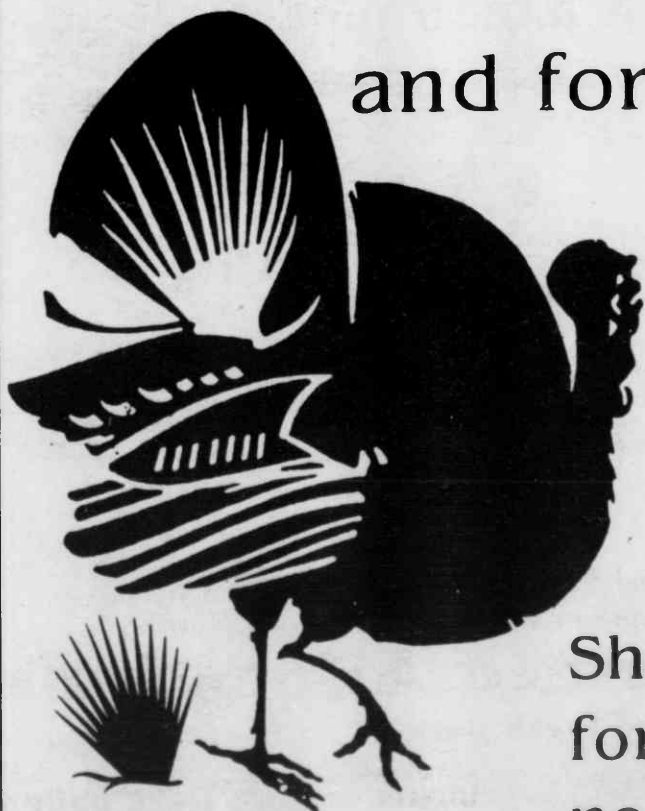
Monday in Odessa. Eileen Bluestone Sherman. Jewish Publication Society. \$10.95. This winner of a National Jewish Book Award tells the story of a family of Russian Jews attempting to leave the Soviet Union and the impact being refuseniks has on their young daughter. Ages 10 to 14.

My Little Siddur: A Child's First Prayer Book. Azriel Dvir and Mazal Mashat. Adama Books. \$8.95. This prayer book includes such prayers as Modeh Ani, the Torah blessing, Tzitzit, and the Sh'ma.

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THANKSGIVING

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