



Speizman Jewish Library



Books in Review

Sefer Ha-Aggadah: The Book of Legends for Young Readers. Seymour Rossel. Illustrated by Judy Dick. UAHC Press. 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021. Paperback. 67 pp. \$15. Ages: 8-12

Sefer Ha-Aggadah: The Book of Legends for Young Readers. Volume 2: Tales of the Sages. Seymour Rossel. Illustrated by Judy Dick. UAHC Press. 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021. Paperback. 84 pp. \$14. Ages: 8-12

Who Knows Ten? Children's Tales of the Ten Commandments. Molly Cone. Illustrated by Robin Brickman. UAHC Press. 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021. Paperback (Revised Edition). 103 pp. \$12.

Reviewed by Rita Mond

With Chanukah fast approaching, gift giving for the children can become quite a hassle. There is nothing better to give than a good book. The UAHC Press has produced three excellent ones. Seymour Rossel, the publisher of the UAHC Press and the author of more than twenty-six books for Jewish and public schools, translated the first *Sefer Ha-Aggadah* from the classic Hebrew and published it in 1996. He published Vol. 2 in June, 1998. The illustrations in both books are stunning, having been produced by Judy Dick, a graduate of Yeshiva University. She has coordinated art and Jewish studies while working on projects in the United States, Israel and the former Soviet Union.

Both books deal with the legends that our sages used to create a world of lessons and values. Each chapter is a recreation of a world of Jewish magic, entertainment, excitement and wisdom. *Sefer Ha-Aggadah I* has twelve legends. Among them are "A Time to Pray," "A Time to Act," "Deborah, Woman of Light," "King David Studies Torah," and "Solomon and the Snake." The

first chapter, "Light and Fire" presents the story of Adam and Eve in an appealing manner for young people to understand the biblical creation.

Sefer Ha-Aggadah II deals with the deeds of the Sages. It is arranged almost chronologically, but here and there, the stories were rearranged to bring a unity of theme or character to a particular chapter. At the end of the book there is a listing of the sages as they appear in the book along with the dates of their existence. There is a beautifully written chapter on "Rachel" and a delightful chapter entitled "The Loving Couple" about a wealthy fisherman and his bride.

I found that though these books are written for children, adults would enjoy reading them as well.

Who Knows Ten? is written by master storyteller and award-winning author of children's books, Molly Cone, who is a favorite of parents and children. Her stories on the Ten Commandments illustrate the deep and hidden meaning behind them. Each chapter of this well illustrated book begins with a commandment and a tale simply written but elegant in content. It gives the young reader a fresh meaning of the Ten Commandments. They learn about life, how to live it well and what is good.

In a way, this book is like a puzzle book. It gives the reader an opportunity to find by oneself the many meanings inside each commandment. Each chapter tells a story and each story gives a truth. Each truth contains something additional for the young reader to think about. Many of the ideas are the very issues that people worldwide talk about today.

The illustrations by paper sculptor and painter Robin Brickman are beautifully done in soft pastel colors. They alone are a "selling factor" for the book. Ms. Brickman is the recipient of a 1997 Gold Award for *A Log's Life*, an award that is given at the 3-D Art Directors and Illustrators Awards Show. ☆



MOLLY CONE

WHO KNOWS TEN?

Children's Tales of the Ten Commandments

Illustrated by Robin Brickman

REVISED EDITION

Speizman Jewish Library Hours

Sunday: 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Monday & Thursday: 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Tuesday: 11:30 AM to 5:30 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

From the Librarian's Desk

By Amalia Warshenbrot, Librarian, Speizman Jewish Library

Volunteer of the Month

By Amalia Warshenbrot

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Each issue this column features a volunteer from one or more of the many groups, agencies or organizations that add to the quality of life of the Charlotte Jewish community. This month's article, honoring the volunteers at the Speizman Jewish Library, is by Amalia Warshenbrot, Librarian of the Speizman Jewish Library.

When Linda Levy, who writes monthly about the community volunteers, asked me to do an article about the Speizman Jewish Library volunteers, many thoughts ran through my mind. It is especially appropriate to honor the library volunteers during Jewish Book Month (November 13 - December 13). Volunteers serve as a most valuable resource for the library and become my personal friends. Their numerous acts of kindness are heart-warming. I can still remember the cakes that Ethel Rudman, who passed away several years ago, used to bring me. These wonderful volunteers send me birthday cards and get well wishes as well as extend other thoughtful gestures.

These volunteers are my friends and friends to the library also, pro-

viding assistance at all levels. For example, when Helene Howard typed up a request for donations to the library, she was the first to send one! Library volunteers are true workers, and their activities carry over to other related areas. Mae Goldman and Ruth Richardson, who type cards and letters, also help with the Book and Author Lecture event. They sell tickets, arrange the desserts and promote the program to their many friends.

Pauline Kassier volunteers once a week, helping with typing and even personally purchases office supplies for the office and Band-Aids for me! Having Pauline on a regular basis helps keep me on target. Pauline replaces Helene Howard, who moved to Florida. Helene, I miss you. You efficiently helped handle library correspondence, accomplishing more in one hour than one would think possible.

Volunteers don't get paid. They are willing to volunteer time as needed. Most of the volunteers are senior citizens, who don't hold paying jobs and don't have children at home, so they are available on short notice. They often visit

their families, who live out of town, but there is always at least one volunteer who seems to be waiting for my call and is happy to help on the spot.

This past summer two sisters, aged 12 and 14, helped wrap and insert pockets into books. Thank you Jackie and Rachel Avise. I hope to see you again!

Another group of volunteers serves on the newly formed library committee: Roz Cooper (Chairperson), Ruth Goldberg (Federation), Barney Weinstock (Temple Israel), Linda MacDonald (Temple Beth El), Karen Knoble (Charlotte Jewish Preschool), Sue Littauer (Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies), Andrea Kirsch (ORT), Debby Rosenberger (Hadassah), Maddie Joffe (Jewish Women International) and Jodie Speizman.

If we had to hire paid employees to do the work of the volunteers, the library would not have sufficient money to purchase books. All these volunteers — these friends — PRICELESS! Thank you for your dedication and hard work. ☆

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

(Especially on Monday and Thursday mornings)

Call Amalia Warshenbrot at 366-5007, ext. 258

Temple Israel Book Club

American Pastoral

By Philip Roth

Monday, Nov. 9,
7:45 PM

When thinking of Philip Roth, many readers call to mind *Goodbye, Columbus* or *Portnoy's Complaint*. However, this prolific, often controversial author has written a number of other praiseworthy books. His latest novel, *American Pastoral*, is particularly fitting at the close of the nineties, especially for those of us who remember the turbulent 60's. The protagonist - a Jewish industrialist

and former football - star appears to have it all ... beautiful wife, wealth, spirited daughter and community admiration. However, it all slips away and the longed for American pastoral becomes the "American berserk."

This Pulitzer Prize winning novel is challenging reading. Fortunately, the November 9 book club discussion will be led by Dr. Jay Jacoby, UNCC professor of literature, who draws out from the participants their best literary analysis skills, making for an exhilarating evening.

American Pastoral is available at local book stores for \$14 or may

be borrowed from the Public or Speizman Jewish libraries. Read this "dazzling, wrenching, compassionate, intelligent novel" and attend the November 9 book club meeting for an enhanced understanding.

Temple Israel's book club meetings are open to all members of the Jewish community. "Drop ins" are invited. Even if you don't read the book prior to the November 9th meeting, come anyway for a stimulating discussion.

For additional information call Linda Levy (h) 366-6362/(w) 598-7657 or Micki Schifman (364-0041). ☆

We acknowledge with gratitude the following donations to the Speizman Jewish Library

THE CHERYL KATZ MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

In loving memory of Mary Jacobs from Ellen Levy.

In loving memory of the mother of Ms. Joan Gordon from Ellie and Ron Katz.

Best wishes on the anniversary of Beverly and Arthur Tirsun from Sylvia and Jack Palis.

THE SPEIZMAN LIBRARY FUND

Special wishes on the birthday of

Bessie Goldberg from Ruth and Bernard Eisenberg.

BECKY SHULIMSON MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Harold Josephson, Philip Rosea, the father of Lorrie Klemons and the mother of Natalie Cohen from Peggy and Elliot Gartner.

Thank you to the following for all their help in the Maccabi games: Susan Jacobs, Ellen

Goldstein, Hushie Silverstein, Thelma Wertzberger, Micki Schifman, Judy Miller, Marcy Mehlman, Cindy McManus, Randy Sperling, Laura Reich. In memory of Lorrie Klemons' father from Sue and Mike Littauer, and Cherie and Marc Titlebaum

Speedy Recovery to Frank Rosen from Maddie Joffe and Larry Gerber.