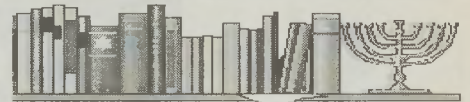


What's New in the Library?



The Passion

By Amalia Warshenbrot, *Judaica Librarian*

By the time this article will reach your home you have read, heard, watched on TV or even gone to see Mel Gibson's version of Jesus' Passion. When a subject is as popular as this movie librarians search for related materials to catch their "regulars" attention. Now it's time to expand your knowledge by reading a book. Hopefully the summer vacation will provide the opportunity relax and read.

My first reaction was to display books on either comparative religion or anti-Semitism. Then an article by Rabbi Benjamin Blech caught my eye. He is an author and professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University. He wrote, "Perhaps our best response is to look inward and take pride in the beauty of our own faith." I also believe that knowledge of our past and religion makes us more comfortable discussion religion with non-Jews.

After some searching on the Internet, I decided to recommend some books for in depth learning. One of the books I recommend is *History of the Jewish People in the Time of Jesus* by Emil Schurer. There is no doubt that this German author based his book on Josephus' *The Jewish War*. It is well known that Josephus was not always historically reliable, yet his account of historical figures like Herod, or Pontius Pilate makes it an important source book. Schurer's book though published a while ago is a very good historical account.

I also recommend a book published in 2002 which was written by James Carroll, a research associate at Harvard University's Center for the Study of Values in Biblical Life. The last chapter in the book *Constantine's Sword, The Church and The Jews* is titled, "A Call for Vatican III." Agenda item 1 (out of 5) of this new Vatican III is titled: "Anti-Judaism and the New Testament." He writes, "Vatican III must help Christians learn to read anti-Jewish texts as if they were themselves Jews." (Page 508) By the way the sword in this title refers to the cross.

We should also try to understand our own history of that time. The book *Daniel to Paul* edited by Gaalyahu Cornfeld gives the historical and religious background of the New Testament world and early Christianity. The book includes a wealth of historical and archeological data. It will carry you directly into the scenes and emotions of the days of early Christianity and an understanding of our past and our neighbors' past as well.

Let's not overlook the *Encyclopedia Judaica, History of the Jews* by Heinrich Graetz and *A Social and Religious History of the Jews* by Salo Baron. If you wish to learn Judaism while standing almost on one foot, turn to Telushkin's *Jewish Literacy*.

For a comprehensive list of books and websites please stop by the Speizman Jewish Library. ☆

The following donations to the Speizman Library were received by the paper's deadline. We acknowledge with gratitude the following gifts.

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Ruth and Jerry Hannes, in memory of Sam Spil.

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These generous donations make it possible for us to expand the book collection and continue to serve the needs of the Charlotte Jewish community. For more information, please call Amalia Warshenbrot, 704-944-6763.



OUR HOURS ARE:

Sunday, 9 AM to 1 PM
Monday, 1 to 3:45 PM
Tuesday, 9 AM to 1 PM and 2:30 to 3:45 PM
Wednesday, 6 to 9:00 PM (Evenings only)
Thursday, 9 AM to 1 PM and 2:30 to 5:15 PM
Friday, 9 AM to 1 PM

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For more information, please call 704-944-6763 or email library@shalomcharlotte.org

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May Events at Charlotte Torah Center

(Continued from page 9)

The Second Annual Shavuot "All Night Torah-thon" at the CTC

It is a widespread custom to stay up the entire night learning Torah. And since Torah is the way to self-perfection, the Shavuot night learning is called Tikkun Leil Shavuot, which means "an act of self-perfection." Come to the CTC at 5900 Providence Road on Shavuot Night, Tuesday May 25 starting at 11:59 PM, for amazing presentations by several brilliant speakers on various issues. Refreshments will be served.

Shavuot Recipes, Sponsored by Soul Food Kosher Catering

There is a universal Jewish tradition of eating dairy foods on Shavuot. Learn to prepare these delicious food with Charlotte's first glatt kosher caterer, Meechal Roizman. Join her on Thursday, May 13, at 10 AM or 7 PM for the

most mouth-watering recipes to make this festival extra special. Meechal includes Jewish teachings; conceptual and symbolic relevant themes of the dishes with the preparation of the dishes.

Cost \$25. Please RSVP at 704-367-1225 or soulfoodkosher@yahoo.com.

Lag B'Omer Family Shabbaton, May 7-9, 2004

The word on the street is that ten families from New York are coming down to Charlotte to help make this Lag B'Omer the best ever. Come enjoy a traditional Shabbat and Lag B'Omer celebration on Sunday for the whole family. Inspirational lectures, fun and games for the kids, singing and dancing, delicious food and much more.

Please RSVP for Friday Night, Saturday, and/or Sunday Bonfire Extravaganza at 704-367-1225 or lagbomer@charlottetorahcenter.com. ☆

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