

Inspiration.
Innovation.
Imagination.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



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Sue's Book Shelf

By Sue Littauer



My recommendations this month offer a "behind the scene" look into the lives of circus performers and magicians ... the plots however are hardly the scenarios you would expect. One is about a circus family during the Holocaust; the other about four siblings haunted by a gypsy's prediction of the dates of their deaths.

The Immortalists
by Chloe Benjamin

If you knew the date of your death, how would you live your life?

It's 1969 in New York City's Lower East Side, and word has spread of the arrival of a mystical woman, a traveling psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die. The Gold chil-

dren — four adolescents on the cusp of self-awareness — sneak out to hear their fortunes.

Their prophecies inform their next five decades. Golden-boy Simon escapes to the West Coast, searching for love in '80s San Francisco; dreamy Klara becomes a Las Vegas magician, obsessed with blurring reality and fantasy; eldest son Daniel seeks security as an army doctor post-9/11 hoping to control fate; and bookish Varya throws herself into longevity research, where she tests the boundary between science and immortality.

A sweeping novel of remarkable ambition and depth, *The Immortalists* is a deeply moving testament to the power of story, the nature of belief, and the unre-

lenting pull of familial bonds. (Book Browse)

I found *The Immortalists* to be an unusual, intriguing and compelling book which raises multiple questions about the power of suggestion, choice vs. destiny, and reality vs. illusion.

The Orphan's Tale
by Pam Jenoff

The Orphan's Tale is a powerful novel of friendship set in a traveling circus during World War II. This work of historical fiction is an unusual Holocaust story about hidden Jews and righteous gentiles, and the struggles they faced to ensure the safety of their circus "family."

The Orphan's Tale introduces Noa and Astrid, two extraordinary women and their harrowing stories of sacrifice and survival. Sixteen-year-old Noa is cast out of her family in disgrace after becoming pregnant by a Nazi soldier and is forced to give up her baby. In a moment that will change the course of her life, she discovers a boxcar containing dozens of Jewish infants bound for a concentration camp, snatches one of the babies and flees into the snowy night. Noa finds refuge with a Ger-

man circus, but she must learn the flying trapeze act so she can blend in undetected, spurning the resentment of the lead aerialist, Astrid. At first rivals, Noa and Astrid soon forge a powerful bond. But as the facade that protects them proves increasingly tenuous, Noa and Astrid must decide whether their friendship is enough to save one another — or if the secrets that burn between them will destroy everything.

Each of these books can be found in the Center for Jewish Education.

CJE Book Club News

The CJE Book Club meets the third Wednesday of the month from 10:30 AM– 12 noon in the Center for Jewish Education.

April 18 - *All the Rivers*, Dorit Rabinyan

May 16 - *Don't Let My Baby Do Rodeo*, Boris Fishman ☆

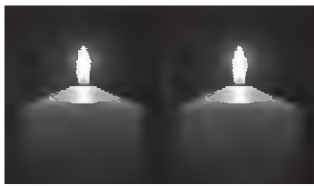
Check out what's happening this month at the CJE ?

CJE CALENDAR: APRIL 2018

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) enhances community engagement, promotes lifelong Jewish learning, and creates pathways to Jewish identity. LIBRARY HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm; Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm; and Sunday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FOR PASSOVER; Sunday, APRIL 1 & Friday, APRIL 6 (NO STORYTIME ON APRIL 4)						
7	8	9	10 Hebrew Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	11 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	12	13 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
14	15	16	17	18 CJE Book Club 10:30AM Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	19	20 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
21	22	23	24	25 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	26	27 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
28 PJ Library & TBE Lag B'Omer @ Wise Acre Farms 4:00 pm	29	30	SAVE THE DATE: MAY 24, 7:00 PM SAM LERNER CENTER Jewish-American Heritage Month Book and Author Program with Leonard Rogoff, author of <i>Gertrude Weil: Jewish Progressive in the New South</i>			

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING FOR APRIL 2018

- Thursday, April 5, 7th night of Pesach, 7:30 PM
- Friday, April 6, 7:30 PM
- Friday, April 13, 7:36 PM
- Friday, April 20, 7:42 PM
- Friday, April 27, 7:47 PM



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