

NJBA WINNERS IN THE KOREMAN LIBRARY

Every year the Jewish Book Council names the winners of the National Jewish Book Awards, and each year the Koreman Library buys the winning books in each of the adult categories. Because of problems arising from the Covid pandemic, and questions about the status of the Koreman Library arising from the separation of Dartmouth Hillel from Dartmouth College, we had not purchased these books for the past three years. Now that these issues have been resolved, we have added the NJBC winners for 2019, 2020, and 2021 to our collection.

Here is an annotated list of these books, with the call numbers where they will be shelved. (To make it easier for you to find them, for the time being they are located on a book cart at the south end of the Koreman Library). The annotations were written by Phyllis Whitney.

THE EMPATHY DIARIES, by Sherry Turkle

This well-known New York Times Bestseller novelist has written a memoir looking at “how computers change not only what we do but who we are”. Ultimately, though, she shows us the importance of our personal relationships in her search for meaning and healing.

BF 109 .T86 A3 2021

HEBREW INFUSION, by Sarah Bunin Benor, Jonathan Krasner, Sharon Avni

An interesting look at the development and use of the Hebrew language in the world of American Jewish summer camps. Does camp Hebrew harm the campers’ acquisition of the language or does it tighten their ties with Israel, the religion and the people?

BM 135 .B46 2020

TO REPAIR A BROKEN WORLD: The Life of Henrietta Szold, by Dvora Hacoen

An in-depth look at the life of the founder of Hadassah. Her many accomplishments are explored: the establishment of an English language night school, first woman to study at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the first editor of the Jewish Publication Society among others. Her life-long mission was to repair a broken world.

DS 151 .S9 H3413 2021

ANTISEMITISM HERE AND NOW, by Deborah E. Lipstadt

This is a timely look at the history and ramifications of this centuries old hatred. Ms Lipstadt is the author of a number of books on the Holocaust. She was sued but won a well-known libel case brought by a Holocaust denier in a British case which lasted for six years. She was recently confirmed by the U.S Senate as the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism.

DS 145 .L598 2019

THE UNANSWERED LETTER: One Holocaust Family’s Desperate Plea for Help, by Faris Cassell

This is the true story of one family’s efforts to escape the Nazis. The saga begins with a letter (found in an attic in California decades after being written) sent from Vienna to a stranger in America with the same last name pleading for help in getting out of Vienna. The author follows the twists and turns of one family’s saga.

DS 135 .A93 A133 2020

WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY?: Rediscovering a Hidden Archive from the Warsaw Ghetto, by Samuel D. Kassow

Using historical scholarship, a secret organization, Oyneg Shabes, documented the stories of those living in the Warsaw Ghetto from 1940 to its end in 1943. Thousands of documents were buried in milk cans and tin boxes to ensure that this tragedy would never be forgotten

DS 134.64 .K17 2008

WHEN TIME STOPPED: A Memoir of My Father's War and What Remains ,by Ariana Neumann
The author meticulously describes her Jewish father's life as he escaped the Nazis and became one of Venezuela's most successful industrialists. This is a captivating family memoir reconstructed through letters, photographs, diaries and found objects.
DS 135 .C97 N48 2020

THE RAVINE: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed, by Wendy Lower
Using a photograph discovered in 2008, the author discovered the identity of a family at the moment of its killing by a Ukrainian Nazi collaborator in 1941. A ten year investigation uncovered the mesmerizing details of the crime "with implications for the past and the present".
DS 135 .U4 L69 2021

THE ART OF THE JEWISH FAMILY: A History of Women in Early New York in Five Objects, by Laura Arnold Leibman
The author describes the lives of five early American, New York, Jewish women through objects which they created or used. An unusual look at 1700s and 1800s society through reconstructed biographies.
F 128.9 .J5 L45 2020

THE FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN JEWISH LIBERALISM, by Kenneth D. Wald
Using history and political science, the author delves into the electoral choices of American Jews. His particular focus is on why so many Jews are attracted to liberalism.
E 184.36 .P64 W35 2019

THE LOST SHTETL, by Max Gross
A debut novel telling the tale of a Polish village that time has passed by – no modern conveniences (cars, electricity, internet, etc). This is a town unknown to the larger world until a divorcing couple goes missing and a hapless resident is sent to let the authorities know.
PS 3607 .R677 L67 2020

JUDAISM FOR THE WORLD: Reflections on God, Life and Love, by Arthur Green
This well-known Rabbi, teacher and writer shares his thoughts on what Judaism offers to all – Jews and non-Jews alike.
BM 562 .G473 2020

WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT HEBREW (And What It Means To Americans),
Edited by Naomi B. Sokoloff & Nancy E. Berg
This look at the Hebrew language in today's world evolved from a 2016 symposium on "Hebrew and the Humanities". A varied group of scholars looks at the revival of the Hebrew language, its status in today's America, and its future.
PJ 4538 .U5 W53 2018

FORGING TIES, FORGING PASSPORTS: Migration and the Modern Sephardi Diaspora, by Devi Mays
A detailed look at the stories of Ottoman Sephardi Jews who immigrated to the Americas in the 19th and 20th centuries. This history takes a particular look at those who emigrated to Mexico after WWI and focuses on changing ideas of "belonging, nationality and citizenship".
F 1392 .J4 M38 2020

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Lucy S. Dawidowicz The New York Intellectuals and the Politics of Jewish History, by Nancy Sinkoff
Lucy Dawidowicz (1915-1990) was an often forgotten early historian of the Holocaust who personally moved on the political spectrum from the left to neoconservatism. Through her biography we learn more about American Jewish life in the 20th century.

DS 115.9 .D39 S56 2020

PEOPLE LOVE DEAD JEWS: Reports From a Haunted Present, by Dara Horn

A book of essays by a novelist who explores what seems to be the world's fascination with Jews who have died. Her varied essays look at Anne Frank, the story of the Jews of Harbin, China and the righteous Gentile, Varian Fry, as well as others.

DS 117 .H66 2021

A MORTUARY of BOOKS: The Rescue of Jewish Culture After the Holocaust, by Elizabeth Gallas

The author details the painstaking efforts of many individuals and organizations who contributed to saving the books and artifacts of Jewish culture after WWII. Millions of people died but the work of an extraordinary number of others keeps their stories alive.

D 818 .G355 2019

THE LIGHT OF DAYS: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos, by Judy Batalion

The author who is the granddaughter of Polish Holocaust survivors brings to life the little-known stories of Polish Jewish women who clandestinely fought the Nazis in ghettos, prisons and concentration camps. Some survived, most did not, but all were heroic.

D 810 .J4 B35 2020

THE UNWANTED: America, Auschwitz and a Village Caught In-Between, by Michael Dobbs

This is the story of the Jewish residents of a small village on the outskirts of the Black Forest who attempted to obtain American visas to escape the Nazis. A vivid look at a time when America was "deeply isolationist, xenophobic and antisemitic".

D 804.3 .D63 2019

NAAMAH by Sarah Blake

This is a debut novel retelling the story of the Great Flood from the point of view of a woman – Noah's wife. A new and different look at an old story – "Naamah reminds us that the bodies and voices of women were always the heart of the story."

PS 3602 .L3485 N33 2019

BENE APPETIT :The Cuisine of Indian Jews, by Esther David

Approximately 5,000 Jews remain in five centers in India (down from a high of 50,000 in the 1940s). The author, a member of Bene Israel (the largest group), has put together a fascinating look at the customs, holidays, traditions, and recipes of these ancient Jewish communities.

TX 724.5 .I4 D39 2021

FLORENCE ADLER SWIMS FOREVER, by Rachel Beanland

This novel is based on a true story revolving around a young Jewish woman training to swim the English Channel in the summer of 1934: "...a breathtaking meditation on the lengths we will go to protect the people we love and how the human spirit can endure – and even thrive- after heartbreak."

PS 3602 .J4 B35 2020

A PLAY FOR THE END OF THE WORLD, by Jai Chakrabarti

This debut novel is set in 1970s New York and India as a Holocaust survivor recreates a play he performed in the Warsaw Ghetto. He struggles with local politics and personal traumas as he tries to reconcile past and present.

PS 3603 .H33548

APEIROGON: A Novel, by Colum McCann

This novel is both "...heartbreaking and hopeful..." as it looks at two fathers – one Israeli and one Arab – each of whom lost a child in the on-going Middle East conflict. Their mutual loss impels them to work for peace.

PR 6063 .C335 A65 2020

INHERITANCE: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love, by Dani Shapiro

The author of this memoir learned through a genealogy website that the man she believed to be her father was not, in fact, her biological parent. What happens when we learn that we are not who we thought?

PS 3549 .H3388 Z46 2019

THE WORLD THAT WE KNEW, by Alice Hoffman

This well-known storyteller has created an unusual Holocaust story. A mother saves her twelve-year-old daughter from the Nazis by enlisting the help of a Rabbi's daughter to create a female golem whose only purpose in life is to protect the child.

PS 3558 .O3455 W67 2019

THE BOOK OF ANNA, By Joy Ladin

This novel, a fictional autobiography filled with prose and poetry, was written during the author's gender transitioning. She follows a Czech-German Jew who survived a concentration camp and now answers phones in Prague for the secret police.

PS 3612 .A36 B66 2021

DEAF REPUBLIC: Poems, by Ilya Kaminsky

The setting and time of this "...parable of poems..." is never clearly stated. It begins with the killing of a deaf boy by a soldier which leads to the entire town becoming deaf. This book of poems can be seen as a look at the silence of many in our own time.

PS 3611 .A467 A6 2019

FLY ALREADY, By Edgar Keret

This book of short stories by a modern Israeli writer is "...fantastical, searing and hilarious."

PJ 5054 .K385 A2 2019

THE HOUSE OF FRAGILE THINGS: Jewish Art Collectors and the Fall of France, by James McAuley

The author takes a detailed look at the contributions of Jewish families such as the Rothschilds and Camondos among others who believed they were truly French citizens. WWII proved otherwise.

N 5258 .M32

AMERICA'S JEWISH WOMEN: A History from Colonial Times To Today, by Pamela S. Nadell

The author traces American history and American Jewish life through the experiences of Jewish women.

HQ 1172 .N344 2019

THE GUARDED GATE, by Daniel Okrent

The author describes the use of eugenics to keep certain foreigners out of the U.S. From the 1890s to 1965, laws prohibited the entry of those immigrants deemed inferior, e.g. southern and Eastern Europeans, Jews, and Italians among them. Among the proponents of these laws were well-known individuals such as Theodore Roosevelt, Henry Cabot Lodge and Margaret Sanger.

KF 3832 .O47 2019

THE NETANYAHUS: An Account of a Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family, by Joshua Cohen

Winner of the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, cited as a “mordant, linguistically deft historical novel about the ambiguities of the Jewish-American experience, presenting ideas and disputes as volatile as its tightly-wound plot”.

PS 3553 .O42434 N48 2021