



## Reverend Katz Library

### New Book Reviews

January 2022

Happy New Year to all our readers and users of the Reverend Katz Library. Included in these reviews are some books which were added to our collection at the end of 2021 from past years. Our library meetings will recommence in February, and we are looking forward to including some new books to supplement our interesting collection.

#### **Joshua M Greene, *Unstoppable: Siggie B Wilzig's astonishing journey from Auschwitz, survivor and penniless immigrant to Wall Street legend.* BIO WIL**

Siegbert (Siggie) Wilzig was a survivor of the Holocaust. He arrived penniless in America in 1947 at age twenty-one and, over the following fifty years, became one of the most successful businessmen in post war America. Wilzig rose to the heights of the predominantly Protestant industries of oil and banking. The engine that drove him forward was a determination to preserve Holocaust memory.

He was a two-time Presidential appointee to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Wilzig's life story reveals the tensions and consequences of Holocaust memory and provides a window into the psychology of those who came out of "history's darkest hour."

#### **Steven Fine, *The Menorah; from the bible to modern Israel* JUD FINE**

The menorah, the seven-branched candelabrum, has traversed millennia as a living symbol of Judaism and the Jewish people. Naturally, it did not pass through the ages unaltered. The Menorah explores the cultural and intellectual history of the Western world's oldest continuously used religious symbol. This meticulously researched yet deeply personal history explains how the menorah illuminates the great changes and continuities in Jewish culture, from biblical times to modern Israel.

#### **Zisi Stavi ed. and Chaya Galae ed. *50 Stories from Israel: an anthology* LIT STA**

It is widely accepted that the short story is the most difficult genre in fiction because it is so condensed. This anthology includes 50 short stories from modern Hebrew literature covering the first half-century as Israel's existence as a modern state. They are the product of three literary periods: the Palmach Generation, the State Generation, and the Generation of the 90's, which includes some postmodernist writers. Israel has a rich tradition of storytelling and storytellers. The works included here reflect a broad spectrum of styles and subjects to acquaint the reader with Israel's best short-story writers.

#### **Alon Baker ed. *The illustrated Torah; illustrated Sidrot and Haftarot* (Illustrated by Michal Meron) REL BAK**

The Torah is a Tree of Life to those who hold onto it firmly." (Prayer Book)  
Artistically illustrated by Michal Meron

This is the perfect reference for every Jewish celebration! This Chumash (Five Books of Moses) is fully illustrated, colourful and attractive, and includes the weekly Torah portions and the Haftarat readings (weekly readings from the Writings and the Prophets). A family treasure for generations to come.

**Abraham J Twerski, Twerski on prayer; creating the bond between man and his maker REL TWE**

In Twerski on Prayer, Rabbi Twerski responds to the inner need of countless thousands: How can I get the most out of my prayers? How can I use prayer to bring myself closer to my Maker?

Rabbi Twerski quotes the chassidic master Rabbi Moshe of Sambur: "The Torah is what G-d gave to man. It is the G-d-given method whereby we can bond with Him. Prayer is what man gives to G-d. It is the means whereby we can bind Him to us."

In this book, Rabbi Twerski shows us how to translate those words to reality. In his unique and winning manner, he explains and comments on many of the daily, Sabbath, and festival prayers. Interspersed with his comments are essays that explain many of the practices and customs associated with the Siddur.

This is not a typical Twerski book. It is an original and priceless contribution to every Jew's service of the heart, a book that will be cherished and read repeatedly.

**Naomi Goldrei, Champions of my childhood BIO GOL**

The Champions of My Childhood tells the story of those who helped a young child, Naomi Goldrei, survive the war years. Pages 5-24 portray Naomi's earliest memories of Sosnowiec, while pages 25-79 tell of her escape and new life in Konarzewo. Pages 80-94 depict her time in Koronowo, while pages 95-137 describe the uncomfortable relationship with her father in Bialystok. The remainder of the book, pages 138-169, deals with the time Naomi spent with her mother, including her first involvement with a Jewish community in Niemcza. The book was published in 2003 as part of Makor Library's "Write Your Story" Collection.

Written from the point of view of an adult looking back, Goldrei successfully evokes the atmosphere and language of childhood. The reader is drawn into a chaotic world where the innocence and naivety of a child too young to understand are soon shattered.