



Henry Koor Judaica Library

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Library News

In memory of Mr. Ben Kershner ז"ל

Ben Kershner was a teacher and headmaster from Manchester. He was a disciplinarian, yet very fair and greatly respected by staff, parents and pupils. Upon his retirement, he and his wife Doris made Aliyah to Netanya.

In 1988 Ben was among the founders of the Henry Koor Judaica Library and was always an active member. He held the post of vice chairman for many years and was instrumental in organizing library functions including lectures, melava malkas, trips and museum visits. He instituted the Brain of Netanya quiz evening, compiled the questions, and screened the contestants. This annual event proved popular in the community. The vote of thanks following an evening lecture was another trademark of Ben's.

Outside the library Ben took a keen interest in amateur dramatics at the AACI. He also arranged English lessons for students taking Bagrut and played golf on a Sunday morning. He attended the New Synagogue regularly; his car knew the way there without Ben's help (excepting Shabbat)!

Ben was a gentleman, a generous and loyal friend and enjoyed life to the full. He will be sorely missed and will be remembered by words and by kind deeds. May his soul rest in peace.

Message from the Chairman

The year 5770 has seen the usual library activities - lecture series, trip to Shem Olam, book sale, and acquisition of many books. The innovation for this year was adding book month activities – two lectures by women involved in a book's editing and compiling process and a trip to Beit HaGedudim in Avihayil. Unfortunately, this year has also seen the passing of two leaders from the library committee – Adina Koor, past chairman, who passed away in late Tishrei and Ben Kershner, vice chairman, who passed away on 7 Elul shortly after his 90th birthday. “Weep for the mourners and not for the dead, for he is gone to his rest and we are left to lament” (Talmud – Moed Katan).

I wish all of you a year of blessings, health, and peace.

שנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו

Tsipi Wexler-Pashkoff

Membership – bargain offer!

With the new year, comes time to renew membership. We have a new policy to 'introduce a new member and get one year's free membership'. This offer is good through Chanukah; take advantage of it! This applies to both Regular and Sponsor membership. Prices remain at 50 NIS for regular members and 100 NIS for sponsor members; sponsor members have free admission to winter lectures.

Winter Lecture Series – Wednesdays at 8 pm in the social hall

20th October 2010 – The first Adina Koor z'l memorial lecture. **Asher Cailingold**, Author of '*An Unlikely Heroine - Esther Cailingold*'

17th November 2010 - **Dr Nick Reynolds**, Great Britain's Great Zionists

15th December 2010 - **Arnold Kaplan**, The Jewish Silk Route

19th Jan 2011 - **Pinhas Yosef**, Jews of India

16th Feb 2011 – **Judah Horiner**, Jewish Pirates

Trip to Beit HaGedudim

by Irene Ross

Many of us had previously been to this museum before the trip on Wed. 7 July. Our tour was preceded by a short introductory film and lecture in English by our pleasant tour guide. We heard about the history of the Jewish Legions who fought within the British army in the 'Great War', WWI. What was so special about this visit was our opportunity to see the wonderful new addition depicting the contribution made by the 'Volunteers of the Jewish Yishuv in Eretz Yisrael' during World War II. This new section was built in a most attractive, user-friendly way with a highly informative and enlightening display.

The management of Beit HaGedudim is interested in receiving information of any participants in this WWII effort. If anyone has personal knowledge of such volunteers, forms (in Hebrew) are available in the library to complete and return to the museum.

Top 5 Jewish books borrowed from the library this year

City of Refuge: A Biblical Novel of the Ancient Past

Farber, Valerie

Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle

Senor, Dan

Crisis and Covenant: Jewish Thought After The Holocaust

Sacks, Jonathan, Rabbi Dr.

From the Four Winds

Sabato, Haim

The Song of Hannah: a novel

Etzioni-Halevy, Eva

Book review

by Rochelle Veeder

"Nechama Leibowitz: Teacher and Bible Scholar" by Yael Unterman.

Yael Unterman has written a most compelling and lively biography of Nechama Leibowitz, the world famous scholar and educator, who died, aged 92, in 1997 after a 70-year teaching career in schools colleges, universities, newspapers and radio.

Born in Riga, Nechama came to Palestine from Berlin in 1930. Her first teaching post involved training potential teachers in seminaries run by Mizrahi. Here she began her life's work, which was based on the question "What's bothering Rashi?" a question designed to encourage students to ask WHY Rashi said what he did, rather than merely learning WHAT he said. The two main pillars of her work were her famous worksheets on the weekly Torah portion which were circulated world wide, and her "Studies" series of books which evolved from these worksheets.

By means of her publications and her teaching, Nechama reached tens of thousands of people, both secular and religious and she became a legend in her own lifetime. Yet she was inherently modest in outlook, and her tombstone bears the sole inscription "Morah" (teacher). Her teaching style was eclectic, and involved story telling, humour and dramatics – something of a shock to her more conservatively minded students!

Unterman believes that Nechama was a forerunner in Biblical literary analysis, and in her teaching methods she founded a whole new school of thought, which deserves more recognition in both the academic world and in modern Orthodox Torah study.

All in all, a most satisfying, enlightening and entertaining book.

Book sale – Tuesday 2nd November – Save the date!