



Henry Koor Judaica Library

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Library News

Library Month Activities

Hebrew Book Week took place in early June. The first Hebrew Book celebration started in 1926 in Tel Aviv as a one day event when books from Masada Press were offered at a discount. In 1959, a decade after Israel's independence, the book celebration adopted its current form. In 1961, Hebrew Book Week became an annual week-long national event. Recently, book week was extended to 10 days; book discounts can last through June. The main attraction is the outdoor book fairs throughout Israel where publishers sell their books.

In addition to book displays, municipalities, libraries and the media promote literature with a variety of literary events such as interviews with authors, public readings, and the Sapir Prize which is awarded to a Hebrew writer, of which Haim Sabato (below) was a recipient.

The Henry Koor Library is following the tradition of hosting literary events. We started **Library Month** at the end of May and organised an exciting program of book-related events. Two members of our library community who had different roles in bringing a book to fruition volunteered to speak about their books.

The first lecture was on 26th May. Elizabeth Dorfman spoke about the life of her great uncle Rabbi Yerachmiel Benjaminson, 1885-1955. She, together with her cousin Angela Greenson, recently compiled a book about his life and how he influenced many in her family and personalities in world Jewry.

Second lecture, Wed. 23rd June – 11 b' Tammuz, 8:15pm

Shira Leibowitz Schmidt edited and proofread Rabbi Haim Sabato's latest book 'From the Four Winds' or Boi HaRuah in Hebrew.

Shira will review this new historic novel, and reveal some of the dilemmas behind the scenes. Her presentation includes rare movie segments from Kiryat HaYovel, Jerusalem in the 1950's, where most of the book took place, and an insider interview with Dr. Dov Dorfman who worked in a local clinic there in the same period.

Both books are available in the library. The lecture will be in the social hall at the New Synagogue on MacDonald St. Admission is 10 NIS, free for library sponsors. The library will be open before and after the lecture.

Bonus activity for Library Month – Museum Tour

The library is planning a trip to Bet HaGedudim in Avichayil on Wednesday 7th July, 25 b'Tamuz. Bet HaGedudim is a small unique museum in Avichayil, on the outskirts of Netanya. The museum commemorates the Jewish units that served the Allies in both World Wars. They formed the foundation of the Haganah and Palmach and later the IDF. Most of the leaders and a large proportion of the ordinary members of those organisations received their basic military training from the British during their service with these Jewish units.

The tour includes English guide, films and diorama. The coach departs at 9.30 am from 7 Macdonald Street, Netanya, and returns approximately 12.30 pm. The cost is 45 NIS. Please call the library 09 8840458 to preregister or email koorlib@gmail.com.

Membership

Price for a new membership is now 25 NIS until the end of August 2010 or 50/100 NIS until the end of August 2011 for regular/sponsor members.

CDs of Shiurim

The library has been recording Rabbi Katz' Tuesday morning shiurim to have them available for library members. As of April, Rabbi Katz' shiurim are recorded digitally and are available in CD audio format in the library. Kudos to Elsie Coutts for promoting this project!

Yom Hashoah - Holocaust Memorial Day

On Monday 12 April, Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Koor library had its fourth annual seminar at Shem Olam – the Faith and the Holocaust Institute at Kfar HaRoeh. Rabbi Isidore Rubenstein, our lecturer, gave two basic modules – the first on the Rebbe from Radzyn and the second on responsa during the Holocaust, reflecting Jewish attitudes and experiences during and after the Holocaust.

Book Display Case

The library book display case is located in the entrance hall of the New Synagogue. In May and June, newly acquired books are on display. If you are interested in borrowing a book from the case, please drop by the library to reserve it.

Recommended Reading

A Window to the Siddur by Rabbi Dr. Walter Orenstein (296.3 ORE)

Rashi, A Portrait by Elie Wiesel (B RAS)

From The Four Winds by Rabbi Haim Sabato (F/HEBR SAB)

A Great Lubavitch Rabbi: Rabbi Yerachmiel Benjaminson by Elizabeth Dorfman (B BEN)

The Diaries and Papers of James G. MacDonald [as in MacDonald Street] (B McD)

Library Opening Times: Sunday-Thursday 9:30 am – 12:00 noon, and evenings of lectures.