



## **TEMPLE ISRAEL FAMILY TRIP TO ISRAEL**

JUNE 24 – JULY 6, 2018

In preparation for our congregational trip to Israel next year, I am providing a list of some of my favorite books about Israel. These include novels, histories, guide books, poetry, and more. Through these books enjoy a taste of what awaits you, and then consider joining us: **Experience the miracle that is Israel!**

### **MODERN HISTORY OF ISRAEL**

*The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World* by Anson Rainey.

This extraordinary and unique (and expensive) volume provides maps, interpretive texts, and chronological tables providing an in depth view of the Near East from about 3,500 BCE to the second century CE.

*A History of Israel: From the Rise of Zionism to Our Time* by Howard Sachar.

This is one of the best, most comprehensive single volumes on the development of the modern state of Israel.

*The Zionist Idea* by Arthur Hertzberg.

A classic reader containing writings detailing the development of Zionism. Arthur Hertzberg's comments are quite helpful.

*Myths and Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israel Conflict* by Mitchell Bard.

This second edition, published in 2002, has a very well organized examination of the roots of the conflict, along with extensive documents and maps.

*O Jerusalem!* by Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre.

The classic moment-by-moment retelling of the war of independence.

*Israel: A History* by Martin Gilbert (Doubleday 1998) Martin Gilbert is a prolific writer. He is an historian whose style is clear, comprehensive and interesting. Includes lots of maps.

*Jerusalem in the Twentieth Century* by Martin Gilbert (Pimlico 1996)

*The Routledge Atlas of the Arab Israeli Conflict* by Martin Gilbert Routledge 2003 Tells the story with clear, easily understood maps.

*The Case for Israel* by Alan Dershowitz (John Wiley & Sons 2003) Dershowitz refutes, in a brief, clear fashion, many of the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic slurs and slanders which have become so popular lately.

*From Time Immemorial: The Origins of the Arab-Jewish Conflict Over Palestine* by Joan Peters (J Kap Publishing) Long but worthwhile, provides important background in understanding what the conflict is really about.

*Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East* by Dr. Michael B. Oren. Oxford University Press, 2002.

## **JEWISH CONCEPTS AND TRADITIONS**

*Radical Then, Radical Now: The Legacy of the World's Oldest Religion* by Sir Jonathan Sacks (Harper Collins, 2000) A light but thoughtful book providing great insights about what Judaism and Jewish peoplehood are all about. Jonathan Sacks was Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth from 1991 to 2013.

*The Nine Questions People Ask About Judaism* by Joseph Telushkin & Dennis Prager (Simon & Schuster) These two authors have written other informative books which are also good.

*Jewish Literacy: The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish People, The Jewish Religion It's People and It's History* by Joseph Telushkin (William Morrow & Co.) Clear and to the point.

## **NOVELS**

*The Source* by James Michener.

A sweeping portrait of Judaism and the land of Israel from the earliest beginnings to modern times.

*Exodus* by Leon Uris

A passionate story about the founding of the State of Israel.

*Only Yesterday* by S. Y. Agnon

An epic novel about the Second Aliyah (1904-1914) by one of Israel's greatest writers.

*The Hill of Evil Counsel* by Amos Oz

Less romantic about Israel than American novelists such as Michener and Uris, Oz explores some of the darker underside of life in this tale about the last days of the British Mandate.

*See Under: Love* by David Grossman

Born after World War II, Grossman explores in this novel the impact of the Holocaust on the next generation.

*Murder Duet: A Michael Ohayon Mystery* by Batya Gur

One of a series of murder mysteries whose central character is Michael Ohayon, a Sephardic police detective. Each volume focuses in depth on a different sub-culture of Israeli society. I love these!

## **POETRY**

*Open Closed Open* by Yehuda Amichai

Israel is rich in poetry. If you are going to explore one volume this is the one to get. Amichai displays the Israeli sensibility that ancient and modern times, the sacred and the mundane, life and faith are unavoidably intertwined.

## **GUIDE BOOKS AND MAPS**

### *Frommer's Israel*

A very good basic travel guide.

### *Fodor's Israel*

*Israel A Spiritual Travel Guide: A Companion For The Modern Jewish Pilgrim* by Lawrence A. Hoffman  
Written by Rabbi Hoffman of Hebrew Union College, this is not your typical travel guide. It contains meditations, prayers, and journaling exercises.

## **FOR YOUNG READERS**

### *Israel: The Founding of a Nation* by Maida Silverman

For ages 8 to 12. This accessible history of the Jewish people covers 3,000 years, beginning in Biblical times and concluding with the birth of the independent Jewish state in 1948. Silverman brings her account to life through the lives of various key figures in Jewish history.

### *Daily Life in Ancient and Modern Jerusalem*

For ages 9 to 12.