

Sources for Books Proposed for CBIAEBC for 2023-2024

A Horse Walks into A Bar by **David Grossman**. 208 pages published in 2018. Winner of Mann Books international prize about a stand-up comic's life-changing monologue. 4-star reviews. On Amazon available from \$1.89 - \$15.95. Available in San Diego Public Library (SDPL.) **Fiction, satire.**

The Loves of Judith by **Meir Shalev**. 320 pages. An abandoned wife pursued by 3 ardent lovers all of whom want to father her son. Based on the biblical story of Judith. Amazon, \$2.10-\$18.00. Available at JCC. **Fiction.**

A Woman in Jerusalem by **A. B. Yehoshua**. 237 pages, published in 2003. A non-Jewish woman, identifiable only by a pay stub, who has worked in a prominent bakery, is found dead. The head of Human Resources in the bakery is tasked with finding out who she is and what happened to her in order to counter a story about to be published by an investigative reporter. Winner and/or nominee for several international book prizes. Has been made into a film. Amazon \$10.79; Kindle \$10.63; \$0.00 w/ Audible subscription. Available in JCC and SDPL. **Fiction.**

Mitla Pass by **Leon Uris**, xxx pages, published 1989. It is a novel about a strategically important battle and location near the Suez Canal. It is timely from a national security and international affairs standpoint because of the location (Suez, Hormuz, Baltics, Malacca are key chokepoints of global trade; viewed surgically, Israel is important because it is in weapons range of Suez). Like the Boats of Cherbourg, this book thus would be of great timely interest now, given the unfortunate rise in violence, especially to those members of the book club who hope to serve humanity in diplomatic careers, or who simply hope for a more peaceful world. On Amazon – used from ~\$7.00; \$0.00 w/ Audible subscription. Available at JCC and SDPL. **Fiction.**

The Fixer by Bernard Malamud 276 pages, first published in 1976. A 30-year-old, recently left for another man by his barren wife of 5-1/2 years, leaves his shtetl in the Ukraine to go to Kiev where he “fixes” things for people and himself. Evocative of Jewish life in the Pale prior to the Soviet Revolution. This book won the Pulitzer Prize. \$18.00 (paper;); \$21.73 (hardcover;); \$0.00 w/ Audible trial trial or subscription;); \$6.94 Kindle. Available at JCC and SDPL. **Fiction.**

Herzog by **Saul Bellow**. 400 pages, published in 2003. In 1960's a failed academic writer ruminates about his age. One of several novels featuring this iconic character. Foreword by Phillip Roth. On Amazon – paper \$17.95; Kindle - \$9.66; \$0.00 w/ Audible subscription. Available at both Jewish Community Center (JCC) and SDPL. Eleanor will facilitate. Also supported by Barbara Pedley. **Fiction.**

The Mystics of Mile End by Sigal Samuel. 292 pages, published 2015. The first novel by a prolific, award-winning fiction writer, journalist, and playwright. Set in the Mile End area of Montreal, Canada – mixed neighborhood of Hasidism and Hippies/New Age types, the novel is narrated in turn by an 11-1/2 y.o. boy; his widowed classics professor father, and his 20-something lesbian, lapsed Jewish sister. In a humorous, empathic, aphoristic manner, this book covers family issues as the characters cope with the “mysticism” of Kabbalah, an issue resolved in the fourth chapter. \$14.95 paper, \$8.90 Kindle. Available at SDPL.
Fiction.

The People of the Book by **Gertrude Himmelfarb** (not to be confused with Geraldine Brooks’ same-titled novel which we read a few years ago.) 155 pages, published 2021 Written by one of the chief Jewish cultural historian intellectuals of America, an expert on Victorian England, the book is subtitled “Philosemitism in England, from Cromwell to Churchill.” The author sets out to correct the one-sided antisemitic and sad view of Jewish history by presenting surprisingly rich philosemitic literature, principles, and policies “that have made modern England a model of liberality and civility.” Lots to learn, to be amazed by, and to discuss in this short book! From \$4 used to \$17 new on Amazon.
Non-fiction.

The Secret Chord by **Geraldine Brooks**. 352 pages, published in 2016. Brooks has an uncanny ability to hear and transform characters from history, and this beautifully written, unvarnished saga of faith, desire, family, ambition, betrayal, and power will enthrall her many fans. King David’s life unvarnished. \$1.00-\$15.00. Available at JCC and on Amazon.
Fiction.