

Signs Of Support



A Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry member holds aloft a poster whose message was shared by many at the dedication by New York City Mayor Ed Koch of "Sakharov-Bonner Corner" at the Russian UN Mission, site of numerous SSSJ demonstrations. Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof. Andrei Sakharov and his Jewish wife Dr. Elena Bonner were banished from Moscow to Gorky after he spoke out forcefully for human rights and Soviet Jews. In May, Sakharov was kidnapped by the KGB and apparently tortured with mind-altering drugs.

5744's Ten Best Jewish Books

By Lawrence J. Epstein

This past year has been an especially strong one for books about Israel. The continuing emotional tie Americans Jews have to the Jewish State is made clear by the number of fascinating and significant works that continue to be produced. The Holocaust also remained a vital subject, with several important works published.

Each of the following ten books is highly recommended. All are informative and quite readable. The list is in alphabetical order.

1. THE CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT ISRAEL. AIPAC (444 N. Capitol St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001). \$6.00.

This extremely interesting and useful book, compiled by a pro-Israel lobby group, analyzes anti-Israel efforts in the United States. A guide to anti-Israel organizations and people makes this a very valuable reference book.

2. THE CANNIBAL GALAXY. By Cynthia Ozick. Knopf. \$11.95.

Cynthia Ozick is one of the finest writers in the country. She frequently writes about the significance of Judaism in rich, intricate prose.

This novel is about Joseph Brill, a middle-aged headmaster of a school. He seeks a perfect student and his own failure to recognize a young girl's intelligence causes him to reconsider the implications of failure.

The book is brief, tightly-written, complex, and fascinating.

3. FROM A RUINED GARDEN: THE MEMORIAL BOOKS OF POLISH JEWRY. Edited by Jack Kugelmass and Jonathan Boverin. Schocken. \$17.85.

This book reconstructs the vanished world of East European Jewry in writings by survivors. After the Holocaust, survivors from the same town or city, working through benevolent societies known as landsmanshaften, compiled memorial books about their areas, often with a history, memoirs, and photographs.

This volume is a selection from those books and

is a perfect companion to Roman Vishniac's photographic collection mentioned below.

4. FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL. By Joan Das. Peters. Harper & Row. \$19.95.

This is probably the most important book of the year. The author analyzes the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict and, using original research, proves that Arabs did not live in western Palestine "from time immemorial" but moved there, often illegally, only after Jews had settled and helped develop the area.

The demographic and historical facts assembled in this book provide an historical turning point in arguments over the moral rightness of the Jewish claims to their ancient homeland.

5. THE HAJ. By Leon Uris. Doubleday. \$17.95.

The author of Exodus and other well-known novels tells the story of modern Israel using an Arab to tell the story. The plotting is fast-paced. The setting -- the Land of Israel from World War I through the birth and early years of the State -- is filled with exciting events. Uris takes advantage of this and ably captures the tension and high drama of the time.

Some critics have complained that the book is overly sympathetic to Jews and hostile to Arabs, but all readers will be propelled by the story itself.

6. THE HIGH WALLS OF JERUSALEM. By Ronald Sanders. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. \$24.95.

This huge book tells the story of the Balfour Declaration and the beginnings of the British Mandate. The book is well-written and, although it covers familiar ground, fascinating because the known information is refreshingly told and supplemented by new facts.

7. AN INTERRUPTED LIFE: THE DIARIES OF ETTY HILLESUM, 1941-1943. Pantheon Books. \$12.95.

This is an absorbing account of a life robbed by the Nazis. It is very different from Anne Frank's account, however, for the Dutch Etty Hillesum describes an adult's life, indeed one separated from Jewish identity and filled with such "modern"

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