

Netivot Shalom's V'zot Yisrael

Israeli Authors Book Group

Literature is one of Israel's most interesting and successful "exports." Join us in reading a variety of Israeli authors -- the discussion is lively in the CNS library on the second Tuesday of every other month, 7:30 - 9:00.

Upcoming dates and books:

Tuesday, November 13

Amos Oz, ***A Tale of Love and Darkness***. Memoir by a "classic" Israeli author.

Summary: A great family saga and a magical self-portrait of a writer who witnessed the birth of a nation and lived through its turbulent history.

It is the story of a boy growing up in the war-torn Jerusalem of the forties and fifties, in a small apartment crowded with books in twelve languages and relatives speaking nearly as many. His mother and father, both wonderful people, were ill-suited to each other. When Oz was twelve and a half years old, his mother committed suicide, a tragedy that was to change his life. He leaves the constraints of the family and the community of dreamers, scholars, and failed businessmen and joins a kibbutz, changes his name, marries, has children, and finally becomes a writer as well as an active participant in the political life of Israel.

[523 pp --this is a long book, so you may want to get it early...]

Tuesday, January 8

Sayed Kashua, ***Second Person Singular***. Latest novel by the creator of the Israeli TV series ***Arab Labor***.

Tragicomedy composed of two suspensefully intertwined stories tracing the lives of two unnamed Arab protagonists, illuminating their fraught condition as insiders and outsiders and their painful struggle to create a life of meaning . . . Kashua's razor-sharp wit and irony are on full display [from *The Forward*].

Summary: An ambitious lawyer who is considered one of the best Arab criminal attorneys in Jerusalem...has a thriving practice in the Jewish part of town, a large house, speaks perfect Hebrew, and is in love with his wife and two young children. One day at a used bookstore, he picks up a copy of Tolstoy's *The Kreutzer Sonata*, and inside finds a love letter, in Arabic, in his wife's handwriting. Consumed with suspicion and jealousy, the lawyer hunts for the book's previous owner—a man named Yonatan—pulling at the strings that hold all their lives together.

To get on the book group mailing list, contact us at vezotyisrael@netivotshalom.org