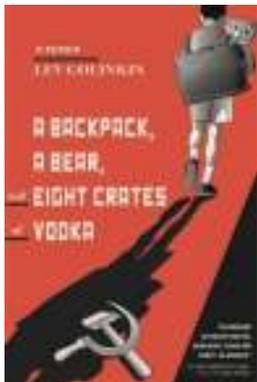


SPERTUS ONE BOOK | ONE COMMUNITY 2015



A Backpack, A Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka: A Memoir by Lev Golinkin (2014)

A former Jewish refugee recounts his family's desperate flight from the Soviet Union in the late 1980's and his personal quest to retrace their journey years later to thank the strangers who helped them.

Meet the Author on Sunday, December 6:

10:30am at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Highland Park

4:30pm at Spertus Institute, Chicago

Go to www.spertus.edu/OneBook for more information

Previous One Book | One Community selections: ***The Family* by David Laskin, *The Middlesteins* by Jami Attenberg, *One More River* by Mary Glickman, and *A Day of Small Beginnings* by Lisa Pearl Rosenbaum.**

FURTHER READING:

From Exodus to Freedom: A History of the Soviet Jewry Movement by Stuart Altshuler (2005)

Between 1967 and 1991, almost half of the entire Jewish population of the Soviet Union left for freedom to Israel, the United States, and other western countries. Rabbi Altshuler, an activist/participant in the Soviet Jewry movement as Chairman of the Rabbinic Action Committee for Soviet Jewry, tells the story of the American Jewish community's involvement in this exodus.

When They Come For Us We'll Be Gone: The Epic Struggle to Save Soviet Jewry by Gal Beckerman (2010)

Draws on newly released government documents and hundreds of interviews to trace the three-decade effort to protect Jewish Soviet Union citizens after World War II, providing coverage of the movement's impact on Judaism, the Cold War and immigration. ("Jewish Book of the Year," 2010 National Jewish Book Awards)

Unfinished Journey: From Tyranny to Freedom by Nancy Rosenfeld (1993)

Tells the story of how Rosenfeld, an upper-middle-class, suburban Chicago housewife turned fervent activist, spearheaded a five-year, grassroots campaign (from 1982-1986) to gain freedom for the Ukrainian-Jewish scientist and poet Yuri Tarnopolsky. See also: *Memoirs of 1984* by Yuri Tarnopolsky.

MEMOIR & BIOGRAPHY:

Shush! Growing Up Jewish Under Stalin: A Memoir by Emil Draitser (2008)

Many years after making his way to America from Odessa, Emil Draitser made a startling discovery: every time he uttered the word "Jewish"—even in casual conversation he lowered his voice. This behavior was a natural by-product, he realized, of growing up in the anti-Semitic, post-Holocaust Soviet Union, when "Shush!" was the most frequent word he heard. This compelling memoir takes the reader back to Draitser's childhood and provides a unique account of mid-twentieth-century life in Russia.

Out of Line: Growing Up Soviet by Tina Grimberg (2007)

The author (now a Rabbi in Toronto) was born in Kiev and recounts her colorful, bright, and funny childhood in a grand city that is by turn hilarious and heartbreaking, and shares how she never lost her affection for her homeland even after moving to America in 1979.

***Unbroken Spirit: A Heroic Story of Faith, Courage, and Survival* by Yosef Mendeleovich (2012)**

In the Latvian capital Riga after World War II, a Jewish boy grew up in an atmosphere pervaded by anti-Semitism. Powerfully drawn into Jewish life, at age 19 he founded an underground organization that struggled for Jewish rights. This struggle opened the first cracks in the Iron Curtain and eventually brought about the mass exodus of Soviet Jewry and its dramatic *aliyah* to Israel.

***Fear No Evil* by Natan Sharansky (1988)**

The classic, inspiring memoir of a political dissident--a man whose fierce spirit and drive for freedom triumphed over imprisonment, solitary confinement, the Soviet Union, and Communism itself. See also: *Shcharansky, Hero of Our Time* by Martin Gilbert.

***Leaving Russia: A Jewish Story* by Maxim D. Shrayer (2013)**

A memoir of coming of age and struggling to leave the USSR, Shrayer chronicles the triumphs and humiliations of a Soviet childhood and expresses the dreams and fears of a Jewish family that never gave up its hopes for a better life. See also: *Yom Kippur in Amsterdam: Stories*.

***Little Failure: A Memoir* by Gary Shteyngart (2014)**

Traces the award-winning author's uproarious experiences as a young bullied Jewish-Russian immigrant in Queens, his haphazard college pursuits and his initial forays into a literary career. See also: *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*, *Absurdistan*, and *Super Sad True Love Story*.

***Mastering the Art of Soviet Cooking: A Memoir of Love and Longing* by Anya von Bremzen (2013)**

Evokes a mid-twentieth-century Soviet experience, as the author traces her upbringing by an anti-Soviet mother, her witness to the political events surrounding the empire's collapse, and her parallel food universes that included both simple and sumptuous fare.

FICTION:

***Panic in a Suitcase* by Yelena Akhtiorskaya (2014)**

In this account of two decades in the life of an immigrant household, the fall of communism and the rise of globalization are reflected in the experience of a single family. The Nasmertovs left Odessa for Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, with a huge sense of finality, only to find that the divide between the old world and the new is not nearly as clear-cut as they thought. (A 2015 Sami Rohr Prize Finalist)

***Natasha and Other Stories* by David Bezmozgis (2004)**

A collection of short stories follows a Russian Jewish family living in Toronto, covering twenty-three years in the life of Mark, from arguments with neighbors to his first sexual encounter with a cousin and the death of his grandfather.

***The Free World* by David Bezmozgis (2011)**

Refusing the Kremlin's order to relocate to Israel, the Jewish Krasnansky family of 1978 Russia makes their way across Italy along with thousands of other immigrants over the course of a culturally rich six months.

***The Betrayers* by David Bezmozgis (2014)**

Escaping his political opponents in a Crimean resort town, disgraced Israeli politician Baruch Kotler runs into a former friend who had him sent to the gulag forty years prior and must reconcile with his betrayer and his own poor choices. (Winner of the 2014 National Jewish Book Award for Fiction)

***Hotel Moscow* by Talia Carner (2015)**

With her job in jeopardy, American businesswoman Brooke accepts an offer to travel to Russia, a nation just recently emerging from communism, but she soon runs into trouble when she helps with the investigation of a crime.

***A Replacement Life* by Boris Fishman (2014)**

A failed journalist is asked to do the unthinkable - forge Holocaust-restitution claims for old Russian Jews in Brooklyn - in this humorous and heart-wrenching story of an aspiring twenty-something Russian-Jewish writer who struggles to reconcile his immigrant roots with his fragile new American identity. (The 2015 Sohie Brody Winner, a National Jewish Book Award Fiction Finalist, and a Sami Rohr Prize Finalist)

***Inconvenient* by Margie Gelbwasser (2010)**

While fifteen-year-old Russian-Jewish immigrant Alyssa tries desperately to cope with her mother's increasingly out-of-control alcoholism by covering for her and pretending things are normal, her best friend Lana attempts to fit in with the popular crowd at their high school. (Young Adult/Teen novel)

***Mannequin Girl* by Ellen Litman (2014)**

A young girl in Soviet Russia, confined to a back brace in a school-sanatorium due to fast-progressing scoliosis, tries to prove that she can be a beautiful, free spirit and as exceptional as her intellectual parents despite her limitations.

***The Mathematician's Shiva* by Stuart Rojstaczer (2014)**

Following the death of Rachela, a famous female math professor, mathematicians crash the shiva in order to discover the solution to the million-dollar Navier-Stokes Millennium Prize Problem, which she was rumored to have solved. (Winner of the 2014 National Jewish Book Award for Outstanding Debut Fiction)

***Dinner with Stalin and Other Stories* by David Shrayer-Petrov (2014)**

These fourteen stories are set in the former USSR, Western Europe, and America and feature Soviet Jews grappling with issues of identity, acculturation, and assimilation.

***The Russian Debutante's Handbook* by Gary Shteyngart (2002)**

In a novel about being an outsider in America and what it means to be an American, Vladimir, a young Russian-American immigrant, pursues his dreams of success, wealth, and a girlfriend, as his quest takes him deep into uncharted territory. See also: *Absurdistan*, *Super Sad True Love Story*, and *Little Failure*.

***Forgiving Maximo Rothman* by A. J. Sidransky (2013)**

On a chilly autumn night in New York, the lives of two men born decades and continents apart collide when Max Redmond is found bludgeoned in his Washington Heights apartment. Spanning 65 years and three continents - from Hitler's Europe to the decaying Soviet Empire of the 1970s, and revealing the little-known history of Sosua, a Jewish settlement in the jungles of the Dominican Republic - this debut novel leads us into worlds long gone, and the lives of people still touched by those memories.

***Petropolis* by Anya Ulinich (2007)**

Abandoned by her father and struggling through adolescence under the shadow of her overbearing mother, Jewish-Siberian teen Sasha has a baby with a nihilistic homeless alcoholic and becomes a mail-order bride as part of her quest to find her father in America. See also: *Lena Finkle's Magic Barrel: A Graphic Novel*.

***The Funeral Party* by Ludmila Ulitskaya (2001)**

As a group of Russian immigrants attends the deathbed of Alik, a charismatic artist, they reminisce about their individual relationships with him, argue about the past, and worry about their Russian homeland as the coup against Gorbachev unfolds, in an evocative story of Russian immigrant life in New York City. See also: *The Big Green Tent*.

***There are Jews in My House: Stories* by Lara Vapnyar (2003)**

Reflecting the perspective of a recent immigrant to the United States, this debut collection of short fiction explores the lives of Russians in Moscow and Russians in Brooklyn in such tales as "Love Lessons," "Mistress," and the title story, about a Russian mother who shelters a Jewish woman and her daughter during World War II. See also: *The Scent of Pine*.