

PLEASE JOIN US FOR *SICHAH SEFER*
("CONVERSATIONS ABOUT BOOKS")

SUE ARNOLD WILL LEAD OUR BOOK DISCUSSIONS
THE FIRST THURSDAY NIGHT OF EACH MONTH
IN THE LELYVELD LEARNING CENTER at 7:30 pm
ON THE THEME: "WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: HOW THEY INSPIRE US"
Please RSVP to Julie Moss at (216) 464-1330, ext. 123

Thursday, November 5, 2009 - FOR THIS SESSION PLEASE READ ONE OR BOTH:

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant. This sweeping piece of fiction offers an insider's look at the daily life of a biblical "sorority." Told in the voice of Jacob's daughter Dinah, we are privy to fascinating feminine voices as she shares stories of her four mothers -- Rachel, Leah, Zilpah and Bilhah -- all wives to Jacob, and each one embodying unique feminine traits.

Water From the Well: Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah by Anne Roiphe. This creative examination of four biblical matriarchs, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah, reflects the author's own imagination and her thorough research. The result is a colorful, character-driven portrayal of the women, emphasizing their experiences as wives and mothers.

Thursday, December 3, 2009 - *Zipporah, Wife of Moses* by Marek Halter. Zipporah is a Cushite, a black woman, and though she has found love and acceptance in her adoptive family, it's unlikely she will find a husband. Then she has a dream about an Egyptian prince, and before long, Moses appears -- but a diffident Moses, very different from the biblical version. The focus here is clearly on Zipporah rather than Moses or even God. Halter builds her character not only by re-creating her most intimate thoughts but also by providing vivid details of daily life in the desert.

Thursday, January 7, 2010 - *The Triumph of Deborah* by Eva Etzioni-Halevy. Those who like their Bible with a little spice will find plenty to admire in this absorbing and riveting tale of one of the most beloved figures in the Old Testament. Deborah, a revered judge, must find a way to balance her powerful work life with her traditional marriage. Filled with brilliantly vivid historical detail, this book is a tribute to feminine strength and independence.

Thursday, February 4, 2010 - *The Gilded Chamber* by Rebecca Kohn. In this eloquent retelling of the Jewish heroine's rise from orphan-hood to royalty, Kohn brings psychological nuance and stately elegance to the ancient biblical tale that is the basis for our holiday of Purim. Along the way we learn about palace life, social customs, sexual practices, the place of women, and war and politics. Kohn deftly fills the gaps and resolves the ambiguities in the Book of Esther with creative storytelling and historical research.

