

**Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean by Edward Kritzer** (972.9 KRI) – This book tells the little-known story of some of the first Jews to come to the New World. Since the age of exploration coincided with the Spanish Inquisition, many Jews came to the Caribbean as explorers and conquistadors to escape persecution. Subsequently, a number of them went into business as merchants trading sugar, grain, coffee, tobacco, gold and silver. Their profits provided much needed cash to Spanish and Portuguese rulers. These rulers, in turn, sheltered the businessmen from the Inquisition. Other Jewish pioneers responded to the persecution they had suffered by going into piracy and capturing Spanish and English ships. This book provides an interesting look into the history of these 16th century settlers to the New World.

**Shut Up, I'm Talking: And Other Diplomacy Lessons I Learned in the Israeli Government by Gregory Levey** (327 LEV) – The author of this book worked for three years, first as a speech writer for the Israeli delegation to the U.N. and later as a speech writer for Ariel Sharon. During this time, the second intifada occurred, Yasser Arafat died, Hamas came to power and Ariel Sharon fell into a coma. Levey opens the door to the behind-the-scenes workings of the Israeli government and reveals some of the absurdity that can be found in the halls of power.

**Alfred Nobel: A Biography by Kenne Fant** (shelved with the biographies, alphabetical by subject of biography) – The inventor of dynamite's legacy is revived every year when the prestigious Nobel Prizes are awarded. But there are few biographies of this troubled and lonely man. Nobel was a successful entrepreneur and well-liked by his employees. Nevertheless, he was called the merchant of death because of accidents caused by his inventions.

**Manischewitz: The Matzo Family: The Making of an American Icon by Laura Manischewitz Alpern** (977.1 ALP) - This engaging history focuses on the personalities that shaped the famous matzo company and some of the issues it faced on its way to success. Behr Manischewitz, his wife and their three children immigrated to the United States in 1885, and a few years later, he decided to bake matzo to supplement his income. Behr was a pious Jew who had an aptitude for technology. As his matzo business (and his family) increased from year to year, he made technological innovations to enhance the baking and packaging of the matzo. These changes often brought Behr in conflict with other rabbis in Cincinnati. After Behr's death, some of his sons took over the business. Behr's will stipulated that only sons be involved in managing the enterprise. Family members continued to make changes, add products and open new bakeries as the business grew. However, over succeeding generations, there were fewer sons who were capable of or interested in running the company. Finally, the Manischewitz Company was sold to various conglomerates. This story is told through the eyes of Behr's wife Nesha and focuses on the personalities of the family. In many ways, this highly readable book parallels the experience of Jews in America. For anyone interested in history or in learning about the family whose name is associated with Passover, this book is recommended.

**The Zookeeper's Wife BY Diane Ackerman** (940.53 ACK) -- A different kind of history is the story of Jan and Antonina Zabinski, Christian zookeepers in Warsaw during the Second World War. In 1939, the

Germans entered Poland. Among their other atrocities, they destroyed the Warsaw Zoo. Jan and Antonina were part of the Polish resistance and helped to smuggle food into the Warsaw Ghetto and people out of the ghetto. Since many of the Jewish refugees had no place to go, Antonina housed many of them in the empty zoo cages. She and her son brought food, blankets and other supplies to their "guests," protected them from Nazi troops, and helped to find them safe haven in other places. This book tells a fascinating story that is not found in other books about the Holocaust.

**Coping with Adversity** By **Dr. Joel A. Roffman, M.D. and Rabbi Gordon A. Fuller** (155.9 ROF) -- A cardiologist and a rabbi have written this book to show how Judaism's teachings and wisdom can help people to deal with overwhelming problems in their lives. The book uses case studies and discusses issues of aging, illness, finances and work. Following in the footsteps of Maimonides, who was a physician and a rabbi, the authors cite Biblical and Talmudic passages that might encourage the subjects of their case studies and that also advise others who wish to help other people with similar adversities.

**Gilded Lions and Jeweled Horses** By **Murray Zimiles** -- Jewish wood carvers were among the many Eastern European immigrants who arrived in America in the late 19th century. In their homelands of Poland, Russia, Rumania and other countries, they usually made their livelihoods by carving figures and decorations for synagogues and cemeteries. Upon coming to America, these wood carvers continued to do carving for the new synagogues that were built. But they also expanded into secular areas, most notably carving carousel horses for amusement parks, carnivals and fairs. According to Zimiles, "Carousels in America reached a height of artistry not achieved anywhere else. This was due, in part, to the talents and diverse visual repertoires contributed by a generation of immigrant carvers." This book examines the little known tradition of wood carving and papercuts by Jewish artisans.