

explanation of a particular issue, but the real delight of the book is reading the letters themselves.

This volume includes notes and a bibliography. Highly Recommended.

*Sheryl Stahl, Senior Associate Librarian, Frances-Henry Library,  
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles.*

**Ophir, Natan (Offenbacher). *Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach: Life, Mission, and Legacy.* (Modern Jewish Lives). Jerusalem: Urim Publications, 503 pp. \$39.95. (9789655241433).**

Dr. Natan Ophir has written an extensive and scholarly biography of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach (1925-1994). Ophir grew up on the west side of Manhattan not far from Rabbi Carlebach's synagogue and therefore had a personal relationship with Reb Shlomo. Rabbi Carlebach fled Europe with his parents and twin brother in 1939. In America Carlebach studied in the Lakewood Yeshiva and later the family moved to Manhattan where he became a follower of Chabad. Under the direction of the sixth Lubavitch Rebbe, Carlebach was sent to college campuses to reach out to unaffiliated Jewish youth. He began composing and performing his original, and intensely moving compositions. His charismatic singing and playing mesmerized audiences. Rabbi Carlebach was the innovator and still most influential composer of Jewish music today. His songs are still sung all over the world and Carlebach synagogue services are very popular. In Dr. Ophir's book we discover Reb Shlomo Carlebach's life through the eyes of people whose lives were changed by his love of all humanity and his outreach to all people. Included in the book are copious footnotes, a timeline of his all too short life, an extensive bibliography, sites and Youtube videos where his music can be accessed, a discography in Hebrew and English and an index of all Carlebach songs. Recommended for the music and biography collection of all libraries.

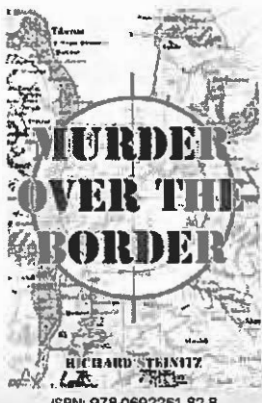
*Ilka Gordon, Beachwood, OH*

**Person, Katarzyna. *Assimilated Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto, 1940-1943.* Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2014. 239 pp. \$39.95. (9780815633341). Also available as an eBook.**

Prewar Poland witnessed the secularization of thousands, including Jews who assimilated, intermarried, or converted to Christianity, as well as those of Jewish descent. In 1940 all were lumped together under Nazi racial laws and forced into the Warsaw Ghetto. Based on diaries, memoirs, and interviews, the author describes the tragedy of those adrift in two worlds.

She distinguishes between those who had acculturated but retained some traditional though ambivalent ties, versus the western, cosmopolitan elite who had comprised a large part of the prewar nation's intelligentsia. Alienated from the Jewish mainstream, this latter group entered the Ghetto only to confront often hostile strangers. Incarceration forced them into two categories: "those who merged with the community around them and those who remained apart from it." Some reconnected with their Jewish heritage and even assisted in Ghetto welfare. Others, utilizing Aryan friends and relatives, distanced themselves

**Two New Israeli Novels**  
by **Richard Steinitz**



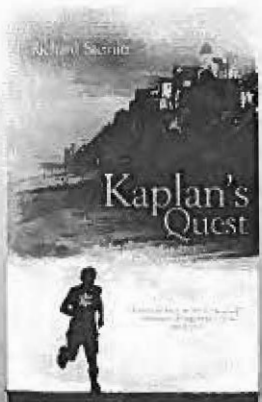
**MURDER OVER THE BORDER**

RICHARD STEINITZ

ISBN: 978-0692261-82-8

An exciting novel of intrigue and terror. **Murder over the Border** by Richard Steinitz reflects the author's knowledge of Israel and Palestine and a fine sense of what it takes to keep a reader turning the pages. An Israeli policeman on reserve duty discovers that he has unwittingly taken a picture of what appears to be a murder - on the other side of the border.

**Kaplan's Quest** is an intricate story-line that keeps one guessing until the end. The disappearance of his great-uncle Samuel during World War II has shaped the life of the young university lecturer, Shmulik Kaplan.



**Kaplan's Quest**

ISBN: 978-0692250-37-2

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and formed their own cliques. Many contributed to the Ghetto's night life or obtained positions among the Jewish Council and police. A Ghetto church catered to baptized worshippers. But in the end, neither their patriotism nor their sophistication saved them. Reduced to poverty and starvation, they were deported, along with the rest of the populace, in the summer of 1942, or following the Ghetto's uprising and liquidation in the spring of 1943. Some managed to escape or survive in hiding; some participated in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, albeit under Polish identity or alias.

This book, painful but fascinating, brings to light an overlooked but significant demographic and hints at the futility of assimilation. Essential for Holocaust libraries.

Hallie Cantor, Yeshiva University, New York, NY

**Phillips, Denise.** *The Gourmet Jewish Cookbook: More Than 200 Recipes From Around the World.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 2014 (originally printed: Great Britain: Robson Press, 2012). 250 pp. \$29.99. (9781250045935).

Organized mostly by courses, Phillips' book offers traditional foods as well as new twists of old favorites. Most of the recipes start with a short narrative which includes the meaning of the ingredients, their variations, the origins of the recipe, or the place it originated. The ingredients list includes both metric and American measurements; although it could have "translated" some of the ingredient names. This reviewer knew that "aubergine" meant "eggplant" but had to look up "courgettes" (zucchini). Many of the recipes include a "Chef's tip," a hint about preparation, storage, or menu pairings. Phillips also included tips on how "To search the stylish way." The directions are straight-forward and easy to follow and the Moroccan Vegetable Tagine was a hit at my house.

Each recipe is tagged to show whether it is meat, dairy, or *parev*; its holiday link if any, and its association with special diets (vegetarian, gluten-free, diabetic friendly, etc.). Confusingly, while recipes appropriate for special diets are sprinkled throughout the book, there is also a chapter called "Free From" which collects a few of these special diet recipes together. There is also no definition of what makes a recipe "diabetic friendly" and no nutritional information to help people with health concerns.

Recommended for larger Jewish cookbook collections.

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**Robinson, James T.** *The Arabic Translation and Commentary of Yefet ben 'Eli the Karaite on the Book of Joshua.* (Karaite Texts and Studies; 7). Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2014. 282 pp. \$135.00. (9789004283121).

In this new study of Yefet ben 'Eli's translation of the biblical book of Joshua, James Robinson addresses many of the issues that have arisen in exploring the work of this, the most prolific commentator on the Bible prior to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. The 10<sup>th</sup> century is generally regarded as the "Karaite Golden Era" in terms of literary output, and yet, no other Karaite writer can compare to Yefet ben 'Eli in the length and breadth of his compilation, translation, and analysis of the *Tanakh* (Hebrew Bible).

Yefet ben 'Eli was generally a literalist, concentrating on the *Peshat* (the plain meaning) in the texts as opposed to the homiletical or traditional interpretation. Robinson observes however, that Yefet ben Eli did, in certain instances, employ the 13 hermeneutic principles found in the *Mishnah*, and occasionally even made use of allegory. Apparently this was an important factor in Yefet's significant impact on the work Abraham Ibn Ezra (1089-1167). At the same time, Robinson notes that Yefet reveals an indisputable influence from Saadia Gaon, the unequivocal antagonist of the Karaites.

Robinson argues that Yefet ben 'Eli's greatest importance lies in the way in which he fills in the gaps in our knowledge and understanding of the world in which he lived. Because so much of his material has been preserved (though much still requires publication), we are able to evaluate the writings of those like Saadia Gaon commonly found in Yefet's refutations and arguments, as well as the writings of others like Anan ben David (founder of Karaism), some of whose writings are preserved in Yefet's