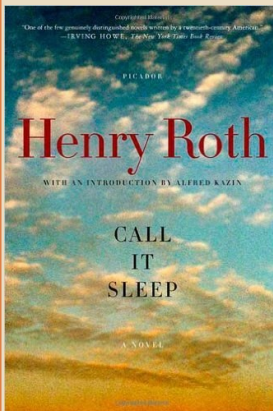


Classical... and Creative Three Vital American Jewish Novels!!

Taught by Rabbi Douglas Kohn

Thursdays October 15, 29 & November 12
7:00 p.m. at RTR Nyack Campus

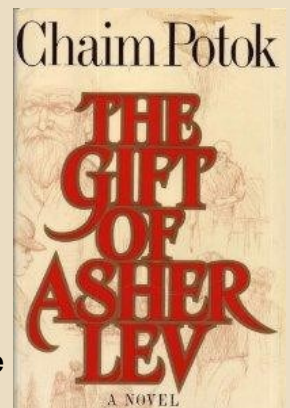


October 15: Call It Sleep, by Henry Roth

Many have claimed that Call it Sleep is the penultimate or quintessential American Jewish novel. It follows the childhood of David Schearl, who arrives on a ship to America with his mother, Genya, and meets his angry, abusive father, Albert. David endures poverty, taunting, family secrets, fear and terror, and ultimately learns the hidden truths in his troubled family. The experience of the immigrant Jewish community in New York City, brilliantly written in Yiddish and Yinglish dialect, and the challenges of immigration are powerfully presented, and remind us of the world from which we came and the difficulties our forebears encountered. Call it Sleep is an unforgettable page-turner, and a window on our lives in America, and is a must read for any devotee of American Jewish literature.

October 29: The Gift of Asher Lev, by Chaim Potok

This wonderful novel, Potok's sequel to My Name is Asher Lev, returns the beloved and complex character of Asher Lev, the Chasidic painter, from France to Brooklyn for a family funeral. Planning to stay in New York only for the shiva, circumstances and family pressures prevail, and Asher and his wife and children remain, and Asher becomes entangled between the world of art and his career, and that of his family, his religion, and his origin. Ultimately, Asher once again must decide to which world he belongs. Many have said that this brilliant novel eclipses the original in its depth and its message for today's readers. The book climaxes in a powerful ending in which Asher determines the direction and fate of his family, and especially his young son.



November 12: The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay, by Michael Chabon

Magnificently written, Kavalier & Clay won the Pulitzer Prize in 2001. Chabon weaves the adventures of Joe Kavalier, an immigrant from Prague, and Sammy Clay, and their talents with magic and artistry in the early American comic industry, with love and romance, fighting the Germans, and powerful messages on social consciousness, family dynamics, and homosexuality in the arts community. This book established Chabon as arguably the most compelling and interesting fiction writer on the 21st century Jewish landscape, as his sentences are artsy and masterful, and his twists of plot and development of character—and his dialogue—are unmatched. Kavalier & Clay is one of those books which will never be forgotten, and will be reread time and again, each with new insights and joys!