

Robinson, Ronda. *Beyond Politics: Inspirational People of Israel.* Jacksonville, FL: Mazo Publishers, 2011. 144 pp. \$16.95. (9781936778911).

The author is a journalist and a Zionist. In this, unfortunately short, book, she presents a number of potted biographies of people living in Israel, who contribute to its society. Her aim is to try to fight the stereotyping of Israel in the press by showing a side of society that is not generally covered by the media. Her first rule is to exclude people who are prominent and newsworthy. Her choice includes, among others, a woman who feeds impoverished families, a surgeon who devotes himself to poor children, a sign language teacher and a professor of religion who is involved in Jewish-Christian relations. In each of the eighteen chapters, one feels the subject and identifies with him or her.

I remember that at one stage, somebody tried to open a newspaper which would only print good news. The newspaper, I believe, folded. Here is some good news that does leave an impression. Read and enjoy!

Chaim Seymour, Director, Cataloging and Classification Department, Wurzweiler Library, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Rosenstock-Huessy, editor. *Judaism Despite Christianity: The 1916 Wartime Correspondence between Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy and Franz Rosenzweig.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011. 224 pp. \$22.50. (9780226728018). Also available as an ebook.

Franz Rosenzweig (1886-1929) is widely regarded as the pre-eminent Jewish theologian of the twentieth century. But he took a long time to find his bearings, both personally and professionally. When his mother Adele was once asked about her son's profession, she is said to have answered that he was a 'letter-writer.' His letters were miniature essays -- or simply essays -- and they were published, presumably from copies he retained, in 1935 and again, in even greater numbers, in 1979. A particular group of them, from the original compendium, attracted special attention: all were addressed to Eugen Rosenstock (later Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy; 1888-1937), a contemporary and close friend. In 1969, these were republished separately, in English translation, together with learned introductions by Alexander Altmann and others, under the title of *Judaism Despite Christianity*. Significantly, the 1969 edition included Eugen's initial letter and subsequent responses, thus providing a rare insight into both sides of the exchange, so often unavailable in published correspondence. The 1969 edition, republished in 1971 as a Schocken paperback, has long been out of print, so this new edition serves a useful purpose.

But a second purpose is served by the new edition, if less admirably or overtly. It can be derived from some of the augmentations to the previous editions, notably the new preface by Harold Stahmer (whose Introduction to the previous edition is retained) and a new chronology by Michael Gormann-Thelen.

That purpose is to emphasize Rosenstock's influence on Rosenzweig, to credit the former with the inspiration for some of the most seminal ideas of the latter, and to construct a competition between the two that never existed in their lifetime. Ironically, Rosenstock's reputation does not need this kind of posthumous inflation. After immigrating to this country in 1933, he enjoyed a long and distinguished career, mostly at Dartmouth College, where he inspired a whole generation of devoted disciples.

The subtitle of the new edition, "The 1916 wartime correspondence between Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy & Franz Rosenzweig," is an objective description of its content. A correspondingly objective assessment of its importance could well call it a free-wheeling dialogue on the respective merits of two of the 'Abrahamic faiths.' Happily it is now available once more to a new generation of students and other readers.

Nanette Stahl and William W. Hallo, Yale University Library, New Haven, CT

Sacks, Jonathan. *The Great Partnership: God, Science and the Search for Meaning.* London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2011. 370 pp. \$27.95. (9780340995242).

Rabbi Sacks, the British Chief Rabbi, is scheduled to retire in 2013. I assumed, therefore, that a book written at this stage in his career would represent a summary of his thought and emphasize those subjects of importance to him. The thesis of this book is that there is no contradiction between science and religion but rather they represent two different aspects of human thought. As he put it, "Science takes things apart to see how they work. Religion puts things together to see what they mean." As a rabbi he emphasizes Judaism, but the discussion includes both Christianity and Islam. Monotheism is juxtaposed with science.

Rabbi Sacks is well known in England for social commentary. He claims that a non-religious society may be moral, but in an atomized society, where the individual is paramount, society suffers, especially the children who are no longer brought up by two parents in a stable relationship. One of the most painful comments for