

Arts Preview: Books

by Sandee Brawarsky

Jewish Week Book Critic

When Michelle Cameron was researching her family history, she came to learn about an ancestor, the 13th century scholar Rabbi Meir ben Baruch of Rothenberg. Trying to find a way to write about his life, she invented his wife, a pious woman with a streak of rebelliousness. "The Fruit of Her Hands: The Story of Shira of Ashkenaz" (Pocket, September) is a multi-generational novel, set in medieval Europe, as anti-Semitism is rising. Cameron, who moved to Israel with her family when she was a teenager, served in the Israeli Army and now lives in New Jersey.