

News Correspondent and Author Martin Fletcher Speaks at Beth El Synagogue

By Mark Kirchhoff

On Tuesday evening, March 8, Martin Fletcher addressed an audience at Beth El Synagogue. Fletcher has been covering world events for forty years, mostly for NBC News. For twenty-six years he was NBC correspondent in Israel and for fifteen, bureau chief as well. Martin retired from NBC in January 2010 but still works for them on contract as a Special Correspondent. His friend, Anderson Cooper, called him “for several decades the gold standard of war correspondents.” He is now devoting himself to books.

And so it was that the audience at Beth El Synagogue in Omaha listened in rapt attention to hear his story and to learn about his latest book, *“The War Reporter,”* a work that addresses – among other topics - post traumatic stress syndrome experienced by reporters. He also shared insights into his other works, *“Jacob’s Oath,” “The List,” “Walking Israel,”* and *“Breaking News.”* As he discussed his career as a correspondent and the writing of his books, the audience got a glimpse of a man profoundly interested in understanding how people are able to emerge from horrific circumstances and get on with life. In the midst of the turmoil that can be the world, Fletcher uses the genre of the historic novel to relate facts and to explore the thoughts and actions of his characters. Fletcher’s books are available through the Kripke Jewish Federation Library.

Fletcher's visit was sponsored by Beth El Synagogue, the Center for Jewish Life and the Jewish Federation of Omaha through its membership with the Jewish Book Council.