

November 25-30, 2017

Cherie Smith JCC
JEWISH
שבוע הספר

BOOK FESTIVAL

Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver
950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver BC | 604.257.5111 | www.jccgv.com



jewishbookfestival.ca

Welcome to the 2017 Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival!



One of the presenters at the Jewish Book Council Conference was asked how do you define a Jewish book. His answer, delivered in the cool British accent that seems to make everything sound witty, was: “we’re the People of the Book, therefore every book is Jewish!”

I am happy to adopt that! It is our 33rd year and it feels like the universe around us is expanding with ideas, connections and high drama. With our choices for the festival, we’re taking the pulse of the world, as it races towards us through book themes, author opinions and publisher selections. And while the nucleus of our festival is Jewish-themed, our speakers, events and audience all defy narrow categorization. They challenge pre-conceptions about the meaning of our culture in the modern world, thereby expanding our reach as we become ever more inclusive.

This year, some interesting trends are emerging from the big picture of Jewish literature: one is the prominent place of Israel in North American Jewish fiction, almost as a recurring character. Another one deals with echoes

of the Holocaust over several generations, including exploration of historical trauma. As well, Jewish identity is being increasingly investigated through the medium of graphic novels and comics. We’re giving all these major themes their rightful place in our programming, as we’re keeping you abreast of what’s being published at home and in the world. Ancient as well as contemporary history have a prominent place; dystopian elements merge with magical realism; compelling actors/authors will take the stage in engaging events; we’ll celebrate the launch of new books by local authors and, again, give humour and food their honoured places.

The JCC Jewish Book Festival is a labour of love and teamwork. Thank you from all my heart to the group of true believers, the amazing committee of lay leaders. But above all, we are thankful for the enthusiasm of readers like you, who come to the events, shop at the Festival Bookstore, spread the word and donate generously - you deserve the best!

DANA CAMIL HEWITT - Festival Director

TICKETS

 604.257.5111

 jewishbookfestival.ca

GOLD PASS \$136

Attend all Nov 25-30 events for one low price.

DAY PASSES

Sunday Nov 26 pass - \$32

Monday Nov 27 pass - \$40

Tuesday Nov 28 pass - \$30

Wednesday Nov 29 pass - \$32

Thursday Nov 30 pass - \$34

Prices are subject to gst and service charge.

LOCATION

Events take place at the JCC

(unless noted otherwise)

950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver

FESTIVAL BOOKSTORE HOURS

SAT Nov 25

6:00-10:00pm

SUN Nov 26 - THU Nov 30

10:00am-9:00pm

USED BOOKSTORE HOURS

SUN Nov 26 - THU Nov 30

10:00am-9:00pm

2:00–4:00pm

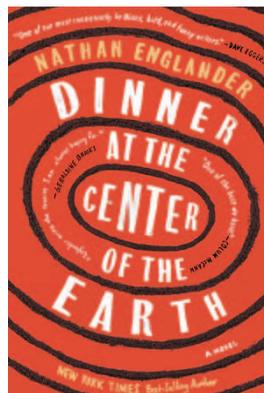
WRITERS SALON

\$72 (incl. copy of the book and reception)

NATHAN ENGLANDER / *Dinner at the Centre of the Earth*

In conversation with **MARSHA LEDERMAN**, *The Globe and Mail*

LOCATION: private residence (address will be communicated to ticket buyers)



Join Pulitzer-prize finalist and best-selling author of *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges* and *What we Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank* in conversation about his latest novel - a political thriller that unfolds in the highly charged territory of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and pivots on the complex relationship between a secret prisoner and his guard. A tour de force from one of America's most acclaimed voices in contemporary fiction.

A prisoner in a secret cell. The guard who has watched over him a dozen years. An American waitress in Paris. A young Palestinian man in Berlin who strikes up an odd friendship with a wealthy Canadian businessman. And The General, Israel's most controversial leader, who lies dying in a hospital, the only man who knows of the prisoner's existence.

From these vastly different lives Nathan Englander has woven a powerful, intensely suspenseful portrait of a nation riven by insoluble conflict, even as the lives of its citizens become fatefully and inextricably entwined – a political thriller of the highest order that interrogates the anguished, violent division between Israelis and Palestinians, and dramatizes the immense moral ambiguities haunting both sides. Who is right, who is wrong – who is the guard, who is truly the prisoner?

The popular Salon includes discussion, Q&A and a chance to mingle with the author and other bibliophiles over apries and refreshments.

MARSHA LEDERMAN is Western Arts correspondent for *The Globe and Mail*.

6:00pm

AN ARTIST'S LIFE - BOOK LAUNCH WITH THE ZACK GALLERY

FREE

PNINA GRANIRER / *Light Within the Shadows, A Painter's Memoir*

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

"The hackneyed phrase that 'an image is worth one thousand words' may well be true, but along with my paintings, now I need those thousand words to tell my stories." - Pnina Granirer

Light Within the Shadows: a painter's memoir, is the story of Pnina Granirer's life as a painter whose career spans almost sixty years. Conceived as a play in three acts, it unfolds from her hometown on the Danube River in Romania during the war and the Communist takeover, to art school in Jerusalem, followed by three years spent in the USA and finally arriving in Vancouver in 1965. Granirer candidly shares her successes and failures, addressing issues of dislocation, 'otherness,' and the uprooted soul's wish for permanency and belonging.

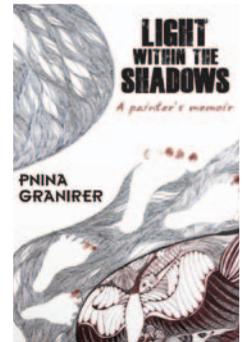
Amidst the joys and restrictions of family life, Granirer created a large body of art, ignoring trends and searching for renewal and new ideas. With wry optimism and humour she openly discusses the politics and obstacles encountered by artists and gives an inside view of how art is forged and released into the world.

"Granirer writes with a painter's eye, vividly evoking cities from Jerusalem to Paris to Montreal, and landscapes from the coastal sand dunes of Israel to the far north of Canada."

- Graham Good, Professor Emeritus of English, UBC



photo: Peppa Martin



Opening Reception and Art Exhibit 7:00-9:00pm

This exhibit is a celebration of Pnina Granirer's newly published book; it follows the written words, becoming a small retrospective of works featured in the book. Drawings, wood engravings and watercolours from her life in Jerusalem, Illinois, Montreal and Vancouver that have never been shown before, will give the viewer a deeper understanding of her beginnings as an artist.

"...a lively and touching act of memory and affirmation, as vivid, theatrical and perceptive as Granirer's paintings themselves. It shows both an artist's eye for the telling detail and a historian's awareness of social and political context." - Max Wyman, critic and cultural commentator.

6:00-7:00pm SPONSOR AND PATRON RECEPTION

In the Norman & Annette Rothstein Theatre lobby

Book Festival patrons (\$180+) are invited to join a gathering of Festival authors and special guests in a wine and cheese reception.

For information on becoming a patron of the JCC Jewish Book Festival please call Dana Camil Hewitt 604-257-5156.

7:30pm IDEALISM vs. REALITY

\$24

ALISON PICK in conversation / *Strangers With the Same Dream* In the Norman & Annette Rothstein Theatre

"Stunning. On one level, a fascinating novel about early Kibbutz life, but more deeply, this is thought-provoking fiction that asks important, relevant questions about ideology, privacy, equality, idealism, power, corruption and war."

— Miriam Toews

Strangers With the Same Dream is a brilliant, astonishing and timely page-turner, set in the 1920s in the Middle East. Award-winning novelist Alison Pick takes us to a lost time and place that still vividly haunts our present day.

The novel came out of her recent first trip to Israel, where she visited one of the first big kibbutzim and found herself imagining the early days of the Zionist enterprise when so much was at stake for everyone involved, Arabs and Jews alike. Writing with restrained power, she creates unforgettable characters who, isolated within their utopian dream, are haunted by ghosts, compromised by secrets, and finally, despite flashes of love and hope, worn down by hardship, human frailty, and the pull of violent confrontation.

ALISON PICK's bestseller novel *Far to Go* was nominated for the Man Booker Prize, won the Canadian Jewish Award for Fiction, was named a "Top Ten of 2010" book by the Toronto Star and was published internationally to acclaim. Her memoir, *Between Gods*, was a Globe and Mail "Best Book" of 2014, and a national bestseller.



photo: Emma-Lee Photography



10:00-11:00am AGES 4-8

FREE

DAN BAR-EL / *It's Great Being a Dad*

Illustrated by GINA PERRY

A gang of mythical creatures is roaming around a magical land having a great time, until Bigfoot gets his foot stuck in a tree trunk, Unicorn gets her horn impaled on a table and Robot's saw-arm gets rusted into position. But have no fear! Dad is there to fix things--even when a Sneaky Flying Alligator Pirate steals the Fairy Queen Ballerina Doctor's wand. A hilarious story about imagination and the best parts about being a dad.

Vancouver's DAN BAR-EL is an award-winning children's author, educator, and storyteller. His writing includes chapter books, picture books, and, most recently, a graphic novel. He travels around the country visiting schools and libraries to tell stories and lead workshops.

The PJ Library supports families in their Jewish journey by sending them monthly, a free Jewish-content children's book. The PJ library is a Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver sponsored program.



SPONSORED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER VANCOUVER PJ LIBRARY

Also appearing at Richmond Public Library at 2:00pm and Vancouver Talmud Torah School on Nov 28

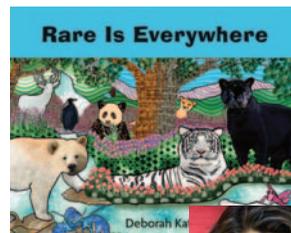
11:00am-12:00pm AGES 6-10

FREE

DEBORAH KATZ / *Rare Is Everywhere*

Join us for a fun-filled morning where families can create rare animal art prints while author and illustrator Deborah Katz shares her new book *Rare Is Everywhere* through playful rhyme and brilliant illustrations. *Rare Is Everywhere* takes readers on a journey through the animal kingdom, revealing that grasshoppers can be pink, tigers can be white, and lobsters can be blue. Showcasing eleven incredible animals through vibrant illustrations and sparkling poetry, the book blends science with art and encourages children to recognize and accept differences in themselves and in others. "This strikingly illustrated picture book...carries a thoughtful message for young readers: to be rare is to be different in a special way."

DEBORAH KATZ is a Vancouver nursing professor, as well as a writer and artist whose work has appeared in galleries and various publications. Before becoming a nurse, Deborah studied wildlife biology and diversity in animal species, and how genetic changes can make them stand out in ways that are beautiful and breathtaking.



12:00-2:00pm WRITING WORKSHOP

\$20

RAFI AARON - *CREATING WILD METAPHORS*

Metaphors figure prominently in Rafi Aaron's writing. They are unusual, often steeped in surrealism and force the reader to consider what is being described in a new and original light. In this workshop Rafi introduces novice and experienced writers to techniques which create metaphors that will punctuate their writing.

The three pillars of the workshop are: creating without thinking; building and expanding metaphors; creating unusual word associations.

RAFI AARON has been described by the Toronto Star as a poet "who allows simple, fresh, vivid words to cut individual jewels out of the material of language." He has read his poetry all over the world. Rafi is also committed to alleviating the suffering of the homeless, as founder and spokesperson of The Interfaith Coalition to Fight Homelessness.



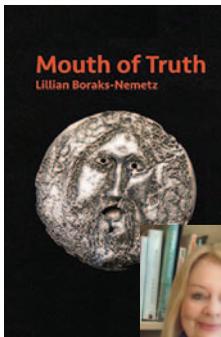
12:00-2:00pm HEBREW BOOK EXCHANGE

2:00-3:00pm BOOK LAUNCH

FREE

LILLIAN BORAKS-NEMETZ / *The Mouth Of Truth*

In partnership with the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre



Based on the author's personal experience as a child in the Warsaw Ghetto, *The Mouth of Truth* is a gripping tale of impossible choices, divided loyalties, unimaginable horrors. Batya, now a grown woman has been trying to live a normal Canadian life in oblivion of her terrible past. One day, a friend confronts

her with a secret revelation about her father, which makes her question her family history and its legacy of guilt. As a wife and mother, unaware that she is suffering

from a childhood trauma (post-traumatic stress disorder), Batya approaches a crisis brought on by series of events that trigger memories of her family's dark past with which she must cope before she can feel love, find healing and peace.

LILLIAN BORAKS-NEMETZ was born in Warsaw, Poland, and is a child survivor of the Holocaust. She escaped from the Warsaw Ghetto and spent the remainder of the war in hiding under a false identity. Boraks-Nemetz is the author of the award-winning novel *The Old Brown Suitcase* as well as *The Sunflower Diary* and *The Lenski File*. She is a creative writing instructor at the UBC's Writing Centre and often speaks to students about the consequences of racism, as a member of the Holocaust Centre's Outreach Program.

1:00-2:30pm White Rock South Surrey JCC

by donation

SHARON HART-GREEN/*Come Back For Me*; **ENDRE FARKAS**/*Never, Again* See p. 10

2:00-3:00pm Richmond Public Library AGES 4-8

FREE

DAN BAR-EL / *It's Great Being a Dad* See p. 6

3:00-4:30pm Burquest Jewish Community Association
5:30-7:00pm Congregation Har El, North Shore

by donation

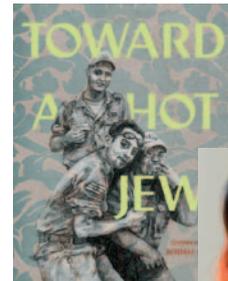
by donation

MIRIAM LIBICKI / *Toward a Hot Jew*

WINNER OF THE 2017 VINE AWARD FOR CANADIAN JEWISH LITERATURE - NON-FICTION

In her first collection of graphic essays, Miriam Libicki investigates what it means globally and culturally to be Jewish, dating from her time in the Israeli military to her tenure as an art professor. *Toward a Hot Jew* is a new high watermark in autobiographical comics and shows Libicki as a powerful witness to history. From hot to awkward, Sephardi to Ashkenazi, Jewish comic artists to renowned Jewish philosophers and politicians, Libicki portrays an array of authentic Jewish people in several contexts of history.

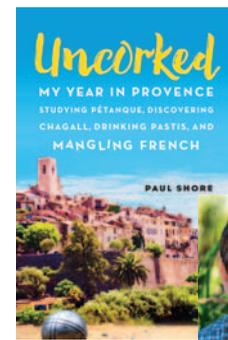
MIRIAM LIBICKI is a graphic novelist whose memoir *jobnik!* has been a required text in university courses. She teaches cartooning and illustration at Emily Carr and is currently the writer-in residence for the Vancouver Public Library.



PAUL SHORE / *Uncorked - My Year in Provence studying Pétanque, discovering Chagall, drinking Pastis, and mangling French*

A young Jewish expat accidentally chooses to live in the French village of Marc Chagall – let the uncorking of realizations begin! The book celebrates the “uncorking” of a few tightly held traditions that are near and dear to the hearts of the locals in Cote d’Azur and Provence – being taught to play pétanque under the clandestine cover of darkness; developing an appreciation for art; drinking pastis before noon; navigating narrow village roads at top driving speed. As he lives in the presence of the spirit of the great Marc Chagall, Shore uncorks personal realizations about his Jewish roots and the challenges that newcomers face to gain acceptance into a foreign land.

PAUL SHORE is a technology industry veteran who has worked for world-renowned organizations Broadcom and VANOC, and has volunteered within the physical disabilities world. He lives in Whistler with his family.

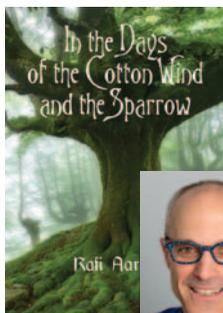


4:00-5:30pm

POETRY – AT THE CORE OF OUR BEING

FREE

RAFI AARON, LISA RICHTER, NAOMI WEST
MODERATOR: ABBY WENER HERLIN



RAFI AARON / *In the Days of the Cotton Wind and the Sparrow*

“Rafi’s poems bask in the ethos of a world of prophets on mountaintops...”

- Paul Hamann

Aaron’s *In the Days of the Cotton Wind and the Sparrow* is a mystical encounter with the allegorical inhabitants of a remote

civilization. “I wrote my best words here”, says Aaron.

RAFI AARON has been described by the Toronto Star as a poet “who allows simple, fresh, vivid words to cut individual jewels out of the material of language.” He has read his poetry all over the world including The Jewish National Museum Washington, The University of St. Petersburg, the Jewish Community Library Los Angeles and throughout Canada. Rafi is also committed to alleviating the suffering of the homeless, as founder and spokesperson of The Interfaith Coalition to Fight Homelessness.



photo: Matthew Burpee

LISA RICHTER / *Closer to Where We Began*

“Lisa Richter weaves time and place with grace and expertise throughout the poems in this her first collection.”

A diverse array of poetry that follows the speaker on a path of self-discovery, this collection navigates the tension between

memory and imagination, between the personal and the political, and the primacy of sensual, sensory, lived experience. By following the rhythm of each poem’s unfolding we are led to a ‘deeper quiet.’

LISA RICHTER’s work has appeared in / forthcoming in The Puritan, Minola Review, The Malahat Review, Canthus, and lichen, and has been longlisted for the CBC Poetry Prize. Lisa lives and teaches English in Toronto.

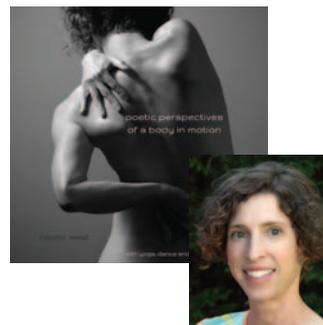
NAOMI WEST / *poetic perspectives of a body in motion*

Naomi West’s book is an illuminating collection of three-line poems about the graceful moving body, with easy-to-follow practices for body and mind. What better way to experience the

beauty of dance than to be offered its poetic perspective? Naomi will be reading her absorbing poems, as well as her poetic prose and will present her nature-inspired poem paintings.

NAOMI WEST is a Vancouver poet, Certified Yoga Teacher and visual artist. *poetic perspectives of a body in motion* is her first book.

ABBY WENER HERLIN is an educator, researcher, editor and poet teaching at the UBC Department of Language and Literacy Education.



5:30-7:00pm

OUT OF HUNGARY, AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

\$18

SHARON HART-GREEN / *Come Back For Me* ENDRE FARKAS / *Never, Again*



SHARON HART-GREEN

"Sharon Hart-Green writes passionately and intelligently about trauma, history and the true meaning of home. This novel is poignant and compassionate, vividly evoked and deeply satisfying." —Molly Antopol, author of *The UnAmericans*

Set in the aftermath of World War II, *Come Back For Me* is the story of Artur Mandelkorn, a young Hungarian Holocaust survivor desperately searching for his beloved sister, Manya. Seemingly light-years away in time and place, the tranquil life of teenager Suzy Kohn in 1968 Toronto is shattered by the sudden death of her beloved uncle Charles. In a panoramic tale bound by love and understanding, by loss and memory, and by secrets and silences, Artur and Suzy's stories come together in Israel after the Six-Day War. With heartfelt humanity, *Come Back For Me* evocatively illustrates both the scars left by tragedy and the possibilities for healing.

SHARON HART-GREEN has taught Hebrew and Yiddish literature at the University of Toronto. Her debut novel *Come Back For Me* was chosen as the inaugural fiction offering of The New Jewish Press. The author of two earlier works of non-fiction, Hart-Green's short stories, poems and translations appeared in a variety of publications.

ENDRE FARKAS

Set in post-war Communist Hungary, *Never, Again* is the story of seven-year-old Tomi Wolfstein, the son of Holocaust survivors who never spoke about their past in the concentration camps.

Most of the narrative is told from Tomi's perspective as he attempts

to understand the events leading to the Hungarian uprising. Interwoven into the escape story are flashbacks of his parents' World War II experiences—stories of labour and concentration camps, of survival and escape. The book is Tomi's journey from innocence to experience.

Apparently, the phrase "Never Again" first appeared on handmade signs put up by inmates at Buchenwald in April 1945, shortly after the camp was liberated. "Never Again" became the call of remembrance, a declaration and defiance of survivors. Since then, however, the phrase has been used after each subsequent genocide, and "Never, Again" has become a declaration of the world's failure to prevent the horror from being repeated.

The son of Holocaust survivors, ENDRE FARKAS was born in Hungary. He escaped with his parents during the 1956 Hungarian Uprising and settled in Montreal. A poet, playwright and novelist, Farkas has published nine books of poetry and has had two plays produced.



Also appearing at White Rock South Surrey JCC at 1:00pm see p. 8

7:30–8:30pm

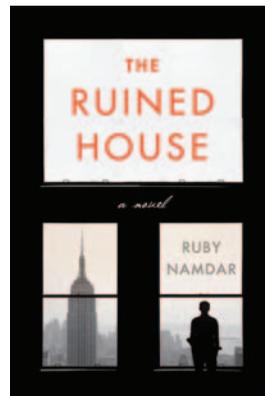
MAGICAL REALISM AND HISTORY

\$18

RUBY NAMDAR / *The Ruined House*

In conversation

SPONSORED BY DANIELLA GIVON AND BERNARD PINSKY



WINNER OF THE SAPIR PRIZE, ISRAEL'S HIGHEST LITERARY AWARD

"An absolute masterpiece, one of the most monumental works written in Hebrew in the last century."

"It is a fascinating novel about the overwhelming presence of myth and historical trauma in our lives. A cross between Saul Bellow's disintegrating intellectuals and Bulgakov's mystical revelations, this is a fiercely inventive novel."

— Amos Oz

The Ruined House is set in Manhattan in the early 2000s and in the ancient Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Completely mesmerizing and utterly hypnotic, the book follows its main hero Andrew Cohen, professor of comparative culture at NYU, 52-year-old academic superstar for whom the

term charisma is a "cheap inadequacy." He has a 26-year-old girlfriend and a stunning apartment overlooking the river; he publishes in the *New Yorker*; he even has a good relationship with his ex-wife. During the featured year, his world unravels and he is forced to question everything he previously believed. Infused with biblical, Talmudic, and Kabbalistic imagery, this magical-realist novel is as beautiful as it is unsettling.

RUBY NAMDAR is a Hebrew author and translator who was born and raised in Jerusalem to a family of Iranian-Jewish heritage. His first book *Haviv* (a collection of short stories) won Israel's Ministry of Culture award for the best first publication. He currently lives in New York and teaches Jewish and Israeli literature.

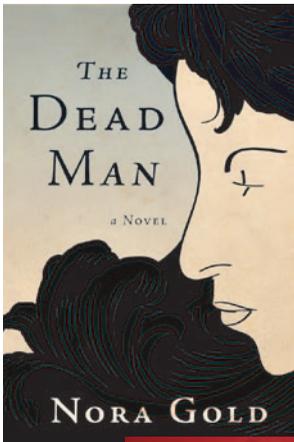


11:45am - 1:15pm **MUSIC AND OBSESSION IN JERUSALEM**

\$15/\$12

NORA GOLD / *The Dead Man*

SPONSORED BY BEVERLEY KORT & RAY SCHACHTER



Lunch at 11:45am

Author presentation at 12:15pm

"An ingeniously and gorgeously crafted story, radiantly musical in its rich textures."

The Dead Man is a compelling novel about a woman who is obsessed. For some unknown reason, Eve, a composer of sacred music and a music therapist—a sensible, intelligent professional—can't recover from a brief relationship she had five years ago with a world-famous music critic named Jake. In an attempt to solve this mystery, she "returns to the scene of the crime": Israel, where Jake still lives, and where they first fell in love. Gradually the dark mystery behind their complex relationship begins to unravel as Eve discovers the forgotten childhood memories, losses, and desires that are encapsulated in her connection to Jake.

"Nora Gold's writing is beautiful, nuanced, and honest. The Dead Man is an intelligent novel about love and art, and the passions that fuel them. Set against the backdrop of contemporary Israel, The Dead Man portrays a talented, obsessed composer, and offers a rare glimpse into the fascinating world of sacred Jewish music." —Ayelet Tzabari, author of The Best Place on Earth

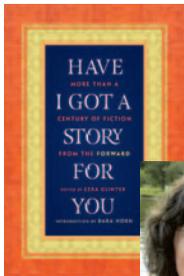
NORA GOLD is a prize-winning author and the editor of the prestigious online literary journal, Jewish Fiction.net. Her novel *Fields of Exile* won the 2015 Canadian Jewish Literary Award. Dr. Gold lives in Toronto, where she is the Writer-in-Residence and an Associate Scholar at the Centre for Women's Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

PRESENTED WITH THE JCC SENIORS DEPARTMENT

6:00 – 7:00pm YIDDISH STORIES

\$16

RACHEL MINES / *Have I Got a Story for You: Teaching Yiddish Literature in Translation*
SPONSORED BY THE KIRMAN FOUNDATION FOR YIDDISH CULTURE



RACHEL MINES is a Yiddish translator who teaches at Langara College. She was a Translation Fellow at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA last year and is preparing a collection of the work of Jonah/Yoine Rosenfeld.

Starting from a reading of one of the Rosenfeld stories she translated for *Have I Got a Story For You* — the recent anthology of Yiddish stories originally published in *The Forward*, the most popular Yiddish daily in the US — Rachel will discuss some of the strategies she uses to teach Yiddish stories in (mostly) non-jewish classes.

6:30-7:30pm DYSTOPIAN REALITY

FREE

ARI GOELMAN / *The Innocence Treatment*

FOR TEENS

Lauren has always been naïve. She has a disorder that makes her believe everything that everyone tells her—to the point that she often puts herself in danger. When she has the opportunity to have an operation to correct her disorder, she and her family are thrilled. Now Lauren can live a normal life. But after the surgery Lauren grows more and more paranoid, convinced that she's part of a government conspiracy that only she can uncover.

Told in journal entries and therapy session transcripts, *The Innocence Treatment* is a collection of Lauren's papers, annotated by her sister long after the events of the novel. Some would call this book speculative fiction, but it could just as well be a shocking tell-all of genetic engineering and government secrets.

Vancouver author ARI GOELMAN is the author of the middle-grade novel *The Path of Names*, Winner of the Chocolate Lily Award (2014) .



8:00-9:30pm

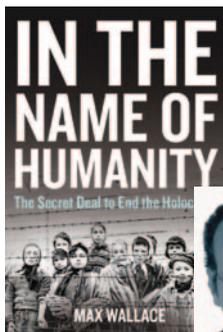
UNEXPECTED HOLOCAUST STORIES

\$18

MAX WALLACE / *In The Name Of Humanity: The Secret Deal to End the Holocaust*

DAVID LAYTON / *The Dictator*

MODERATOR: HELEN PINSKY



MAX WALLACE

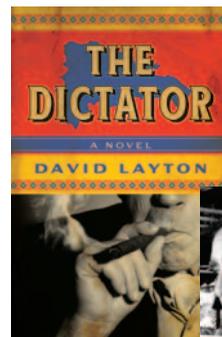
In The Name Of Humanity: The Secret Deal to End the Holocaust draws on an explosive cache of recently declassified documents and an account from the only living eyewitness to unravel a previously unknown

mystery. Wallace uncovers an astounding story involving the secret negotiations of an unlikely trio — a former fascist President of Switzerland, a courageous Orthodox Jewish woman, and Himmler's Finnish osteopath — to end the Holocaust, aided by clandestine Swedish and American intelligence efforts. He documents their efforts to deceive Himmler, who, as Germany's defeat loomed, sought to enter an alliance with the West against the Soviet Union.

MAX WALLACE is a Holocaust historian and a veteran interviewer for Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation, as well as a New York Times bestselling author.

DAVID LAYTON

The Dictator is centred on a little-known historical event — the creation of an agricultural colony for Jewish refugees in the Dominican Republic by murderous dictator Rafael Trujillo during World War II. Layton's story courses through



the Anschluss in Vienna, a Swiss refugee camp and the details of this unexpected and seemingly generous offer. Told from the alternating perspectives of Karl who is 90 and descending into dementia and his son Aaron, and travelling from present-day Toronto to the postwar settlement of Jewish immigrants in the Dominican Republic, *The Dictator* is at turns funny, poignant and insightful. With a deft touch and a wonderful ability to show the humorous in the tragic, David Layton has created a novel that explores the relationship between fathers and sons, and how the events of the past translate down through generations.

Award-winning writer DAVID LAYTON is the author of *Motion Sickness*, a memoir that was shortlisted for the Trillium Book Award, and the bestselling novel *The Bird Factory*. He teaches creative writing at the University of Toronto.

10:00am-11:00pm FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

FREE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL

6:00-7:30pm MAGICAL REALISM

\$16

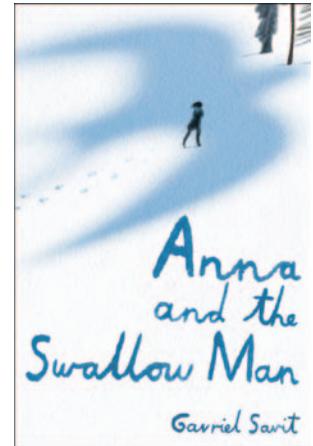
GAVRIEL SAVIT / *Anna and the Swallow Man*
in conversation

SPONSORED BY THE VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

When her father is taken in the purge of intellectuals from Krakow in 1939, seven-year-old Anna is left alone in a city with little kindness to spare. And then she meets the Swallow Man. He is a mystery: strange and tall, a skilled deceiver with more than a little magic up his sleeve, and when the soldiers in the street look at him they see what he wants them to see. When he summons a bright beautiful swallow down to his hand to stop her from crying, Anna is entranced. She follows him into the wilderness. Over the course of their travels together, going away rather than toward anything, Anna and the Swallow Man will dodge bombs, tame soldiers and even, despite their better judgement, make a friend. But in a world gone mad with war, everything can prove dangerous. Even the Swallow Man.

Written as a Young Adult novel, it is a truly ageless book “which should be read by anyone and everyone old enough to cook dinner unsupervised.” Part fairy tale, part magical realism, and part psycho-social exploration of what it may mean to grow up surrounded by horror, this short novel cannot be contained within its pages. An exquisitely haunting narrative written in prose that dances, Gavriel Savit’s debut will take your breath away.

GAVRIEL SAVIT is an actor and writer who has performed worldwide. *Anna and the Swallow Man* is his first novel. It won the Sydney Taylor Honor Book for Teen Readers award, and was optioned for film.



festival schedule

SUNDAY OCTOBER 22	SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25	SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26	SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26
<p>OCTOBER PROLOGUE 2:00-4:00pm WRITERS SALON NATHAN ENGLANDER / <i>Dinner at the Centre of the Earth</i> p. 3</p>	<p>OPENING GALA 6:00-7:00pm PRE-EVENT RECEPTION for Book Festival Patrons (\$180 plus) p. 5</p> <p>7:30pm IDEALISM vs. REALITY ALISON PICK / <i>Strangers With the Same Dream</i> p. 5</p>	<p>FOR KIDS 10:00-11:00am AGES 4-8 DAN BAR-EL / <i>It's Great Being a Dad</i> p. 6</p> <p>11:00am-12:00pm AGES 6-10 DEBORAH KATZ / <i>Rare Is Everywhere</i> p. 6</p> <p>12:00-2:00pm</p>	<p>4:00-5:30pm POETRY RAFI AARON / <i>In the Days of the Cotton Wind and the Sparrow</i></p> <p>LISA RICHTER / <i>Closer to Where We Began</i></p> <p>NAOMI WEST / <i>poetic perspectives of a body in motion</i> p. 9</p>
<p>THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16</p>			
<p>PRE-FEST EVENT 6:00pm AN ARTIST'S LIFE PNINA GRANIRER / <i>Light Within the Shadows, A Painter's Memoir</i> p. 4</p>		<p>2:00 – 3:00pm BOOK LAUNCH LILLIAN BORAKS-NEMETZ / <i>The Mouth Of Truth</i> p. 7</p> <p>OUTREACH 1:00-2:30pm White Rock South Surrey JCC SHARON HART-GREEN / <i>Come Back For Me</i> ENDRE FARKAS / <i>Never, Again</i> p. 8</p> <p>2:00-3:00pm Richmond Public Library DAN BAR-EL / <i>It's Great Being a Dad</i> p. 8</p> <p>3:00-4:30pm Burquest Community Centre 5:30-7:00pm Congregation Har El MIRIAM LIBICKI / <i>Toward a Hot Jew</i> PAUL SHORE / <i>Uncorked</i> p. 8</p>	<p>5:30-7:00pm OUT OF HUNGARY, AFTER THE HOLOCAUST SHARON HART-GREEN / <i>Come Back For Me</i> ENDRE FARKAS / <i>Never, Again</i> p. 10</p> <p>7:30-8:30pm MAGICAL REALISM AND HISTORY RUBY NAMDAR / <i>The Ruined House</i> p. 11</p>

festival schedule

MONDAY NOVEMBER 27	TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28	WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29	THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30
<p>11:45am - 1:15pm LUNCH AND LEARN MUSIC AND OBSESSION IN JERUSALEM NORA GOLD / <i>The Dead Man</i> p. 12</p> <p>6:00 – 7:00pm YIDDISH STORIES RACHEL MINES / <i>Have I Got a Story for You: Teaching Yiddish Literature in Translation</i> p. 13</p> <p>6:30 – 7:30pm FOR TEENS DYSTOPIAN REALITY ARI GOELMAN / <i>The Innocence Treatment</i> p. 13</p> <p>8:00-9:30pm UNEXPECTED HOLOCAUST STORIES MAX WALLACE / <i>In The Name Of Humanity: The Secret Deal to End the Holocaust</i> DAVID LAYTON / <i>The Dictator</i> p. 14</p>	<p>10:00-11:00pm FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS King David High School GAVRIEL SAVIT / <i>Anna and the Swallow Man</i> p. 15</p> <p>6:00-7:30pm MAGICAL REALISM GAVRIEL SAVIT / <i>Anna and the Swallow Man</i> p. 15</p> <p>8:00pm (doors open at 7:15) FOR BOOK CLUBS AND BOOK LOVERS RACHEL KADISH / <i>The Weight of Ink</i> p. 18</p>	<p>10:00 – 11:00am Vancouver Talmud Torah School DAN BAR-EL / <i>It's Great Being a Dad</i> p. 19</p> <p>11:00am – 12:00pm Vancouver Talmud Torah School IRENE N. WATTS / <i>Seeking Refuge– A Graphic Novel</i> KATHRYN E. SHOEMAKER (illustrator) p. 19</p> <p>6:00 – 7:30pm INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA ROGER FRIE / <i>Not in My Family: German Memory and Responsibility after the Holocaust</i> CLAIRE SICHERMAN / <i>Imprint</i> p. 20</p> <p>8:00-9:30pm JEWISH & DELICIOUS DANA & JACOB ATTIAS / <i>The Jewish Cookbook</i> p. 21</p>	<p>10:00 – 11:00am Richmond Jewish Day School IRENE N. WATTS / <i>Seeking Refuge– A Graphic Novel</i> KATHRYN E. SHOEMAKER (illustrator)</p> <p>6:00-7:30pm JEWISH GRAPHIC EXPRESSION ORLI AUSLANDER / <i>I Feel Bad: All Day. Every Day. About Everything</i> JONATHAN ROTSZTAIN / <i>Self-Loving Jew Comics</i> MIRIAM LIBICKI / <i>Toward a Hot Jew</i> p. 22</p> <p>CLOSING 8:00-9:30pm THE ULTIMATE STORYTELLER STEPHEN TOBOLOWSKY / <i>My Adventures with God</i> p. 23</p>

TICKETS

 604.257.5111

 jewishbookfestival.ca

Prices are subject to gst and service charge.

GOLD PASS \$136

Attend all Nov 25-30 events for one low price.

DAY PASSES

Sunday Nov 26 pass - \$32

Monday Nov 27 pass - \$40

Tuesday Nov 28 pass - \$30

Wednesday Nov 29 pass - \$32

Thursday Nov 30 pass - \$34

Prices are subject to gst and service charge.

8:00pm (doors open at 7:15) FOR BOOK CLUBS and BOOK LOVERS

\$18

RACHEL KADISH / *The Weight of Ink*

SPONSORED BY THE LUTSKY FAMILIES

“The best kind of quest novel...full of suspense, surprises and characters we care passionately about.” Set in London of the 1660s and of the early twenty-first century, *The Weight of Ink* is the interwoven tale of two women of remarkable intellect: Ester Velasquez, an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi, just before the plague hits the city; and Helen Watt, an ailing historian with a love of Jewish history.

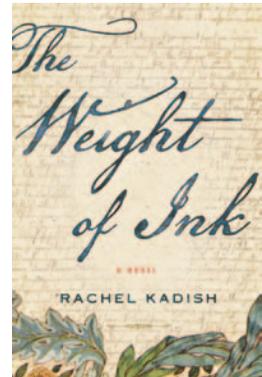
As the novel opens, Helen has been summoned by a former student to view a cache of 17th-century Jewish documents newly discovered in his home during a renovation. Enlisting the help of Aaron Levy, an American graduate student as impatient as he is charming, and in a race with another fast-moving team of historians, Helen embarks on one last project: to determine the identity of the documents' scribe, the elusive “Aleph”.

Electrifying and ambitious, *The Weight of Ink* is a sophisticated work of historical fiction about women separated by centuries, and the choices and sacrifices they must make to reconcile the life of the heart and mind.

Just imagine a group of book lovers, sitting together with the writer, hearing the story behind the story. We provide the venue, the author, the host and the nosh - you provide the discussion and can add the wine! Purchase your tickets in advance and we'll reserve a table for you and your friends. Whether your book club has only one member (you), or fifteen, everyone is welcome. The Festival's popular annual Book Club event is sure to spice up your literary season!

You can order *The Weight of Ink* from the Jewish Book Festival at a 25% discount by calling 604.257.5111. Pick up at the JCC from October 16.

RACHEL KADISH is the award-winning author of the novels *From a Sealed Room* and *Tolstoy Lied: A Love Story*. Her work has appeared on NPR and in the New York Times online, Ploughshares, and Tin House.



Outreach to Jewish day schools SPONSORED BY ESTHER CHETNER

10:00–11:00am Vancouver Talmud Torah School K-Gr 2

FREE

DAN BAR-EL / *It's Great Being a Dad* See p. 6

11:00am–12:00pm Vancouver Talmud Torah School Gr 6-7

FREE

thur nov 30 10:00–11:00am Richmond Jewish Day School

FREE

IRENE N. WATTS / *Seeking Refuge– A Graphic Novel*
KATHRYN E. SHOEMAKER (illustrator)

SPONSORED BY HELEN PINSKY

WINNERS OF THE 2017 VINE AWARD FOR CANADIAN JEWISH LITERATURE

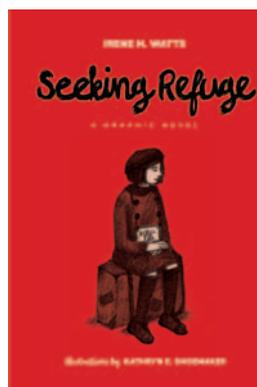
Seeking Refuge captures Irene Watts' experiences when she was sent to England from Germany on the Kindertransport at the age of seven. This was a military operation that saved almost 10,000 Jewish children during WWII.

In the book, it is December 2, 1938 and the first Kindertransport arrives in England from Berlin. Eleven-year-old Marianne Kohn is amongst the over 200 children on board. It is twenty-four hours since she said good-bye to her mother, she does not know if she will ever see her again. Her snobbish English foster mother is unsympathetic to the young foreigner. World War II breaks out in September 1939, and Marianne is evacuated to South Wales. She must cope with new problems both in and out of school. However her hope and resilience are finally rewarded. Then as today, the refugee experience takes its toll on those who flee their homes because of persecution.

"Author and illustrator show their collaborative finesse in a wonderfully rendered marriage between text and art. A book that invites close reading, this will spark interest in the plight of all refugees."

IRENE N. WATTS has been a storyteller since the age of seven. She has written poems, plays, novels and non-fiction books. As a member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada, she wrote and directed plays for young audiences to be performed at schools.

KATHRYN E. SHOEMAKER is the illustrator of more than 40 books for children. She has broad experience as an art teacher, curriculum specialist, filmmaker, fund raiser and event designer. She teaches children's literature at UBC.

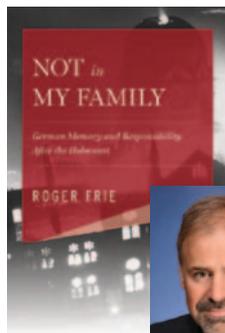


6:00-7:30pm

INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

\$18

ROGER FRIE / *Not in My Family: German Memory and Responsibility after the Holocaust*
CLAIRE SICHERMAN / *Imprint*
MODERATOR: ABBY WENER HERLIN



ROGER FRIE

**WINNER OF THE 2017
CANADIAN JEWISH
LITERARY AWARD
(in history)**

In this extraordinary and highly absorbing book, Canadian author Roger Frie confronts an unspoken Nazi history in his German family. With remarkable courage, he seeks to transform his family narra-

tive into an understanding of the Holocaust's forbidding reality.

The son of German postwar immigrants who were children during World War II, and with grandparents who were participants in the War, he uses the history of his family to explore the moral and psychological implications of memory against the backdrop of one of humanity's darkest periods.

"Searingly honest, multi-textured and beautifully written. Roger Frie's riveting exploration of intergenerational war memory and submerged guilt will be read as an instant classic." – Erna Paris

ROGER FRIE is a psychologist and philosopher educated in London and Cambridge. He is Professor of Education at Simon Fraser University, Affiliate Professor of Psychiatry at UBC and Faculty and Supervisor at the William Alanson White Institute of Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis, and Psychology in New York.

CLAIRE SICHERMAN

Imprint is a profound and courageous exploration of trauma, family, and the importance of breaking silence and telling stories. When her son almost died at birth and her grandmother passed away, Claire's body, which had always felt weighed down by unknown hurt, suddenly

suffered from chronic health conditions. Her grief was so large it seemed to encompass more than her own lifetime, and she became determined to find out why.

Sicherman grew up reading *Anne Frank* and watching *Schindler's List* with almost no knowledge of the Holocaust's impact on her family. Now a mother herself, Sicherman uses vignettes, epistolary style, and other unconventional forms to explore the intergenerational transmission of trauma, about the fact that genes can be altered and carry memories, which are then passed down—a genetic imprinting. A testimony of the connections between mind and body, the past and the present, *Imprint* is devastatingly beautiful—ultimately a story of love and survival.

CLAIRE SICHERMAN is a graduate of The Humber School for Writers and Langara College. She is a facilitator in a multi-generational writing group called Home Words Project. She lives on Salt Spring Island. *Imprint* is her first book.



8:00-9:30pm JEWISH AND DELICIOUS

\$18

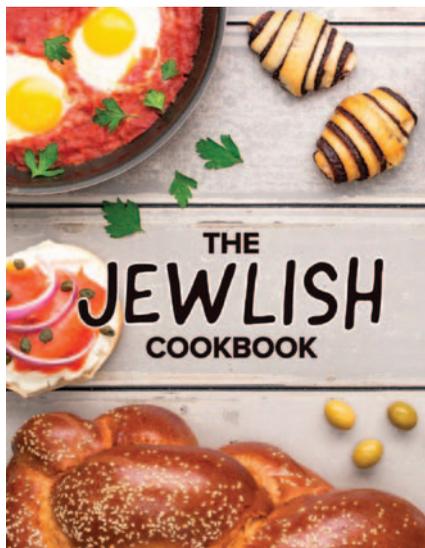
DANA and JACOB ATTIAS / *The Jewish Cookbook*

SPONSORED BY NANCY BROWN HALPERN

Only six months after their wedding, Dana and Jacob Attias created *Jewish*, a video series that amassed over 100 million views on social media. In *The Jewish Cookbook*, they highlight the diversity of Jewish cuisine with recipes that span across the world and through the ages. Containing recipes such as Za'atar and Olive Stuffed Challah, Boyos de Espinaca, Vegetarian Chopped Liver and Dairy-Free Chocolate Chip Cookies, this book is a playful explosion of colour and flavour.

Having spent most of her life moving between London and Israel, DANA ATTIAS has both a cheeky British side and an outgoing Israeli side. As the lead producer, Dana's ability to transform ideas into reality is what made *Jewish* an instant hit.

JACOB ATTIAS moved from Cleveland, Ohio to Israel where he found the two loves of his life, Dana and Israeli food. Jacob founded a highly successful digital media company and, since he wanted to find a way to blend food into his business, *Jewish* was born.



6:00-7:30pm

JEWISH GRAPHIC EXPRESSION

\$18

ORLI AUSLANDER / *I Feel Bad: All Day. Every Day. About Everything*
JONATHAN ROTSZTAIN / *Self-Loving Jew Comics*
MIRIAM LIBICKI / *Toward a Hot Jew*

Discover humorous yet profound explorations of Jewish identity from 3 graphic novel and comics authors.



ORLI AUSLANDER
 This is a hilarious, unfiltered, and beautifully illustrated look at the infinite number of reasons the author experiences guilt, shame, regret, and

self-reproach in daily life and that maybe—just maybe—some of us can relate to as well. Confronting her experience with dark humour and brutal honesty, Auslander offers us many cringe-inducing moments!

ORLI AUSLANDER grew up in London and lived and worked in New York City before devoting herself full-time to creating art. She is married to the author Shalom Auslander and lives with her family in upstate New York.

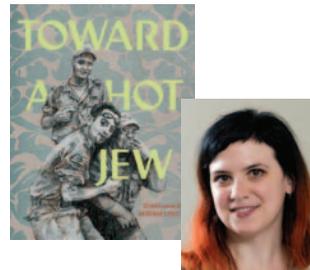


JONATHAN ROTSZTAIN
 Originally published on koffler.digital, *Self-Loving Jew* is a series of autobiographical visual essays claiming a secular, cultural Jewish identity, part of a larger in-progress

graphic novel. It is an attempt to articulate some of the ambivalence North American Jewish millennials may feel about religious Judaism, identity and assimilation and accounts for the shift away from established Jewish institutions amongst younger Jewish people. Its message is: embrace forging personal beliefs and practices that

honour the Jewish legacy, adapting them alongside other value considerations, including social justice, environmentalism, physical fitness and spirituality.

JONATHAN ROTSZTAIN is a Toronto-based writer, cartoonist and graphic designer. Alongside *Self-Loving Jew*, Jonathan has a performance art practice that is all about imbuing ritual and spirituality into secular, post-modern life.



MIRIAM LIBICKI
WINNER OF THE 2017 VINE AWARD FOR CANADIAN JEWISH LITERATURE

In her first collection of graphic essays, Miriam Libicki investigates what it means to be Jewish, dating from

her time in the Israeli military to her tenure as an art professor. *Toward a Hot Jew* shows Libicki as a powerful witness to history. She manages to both draw and encompass every kind of Jew. From hot to awkward, Sephardi to Ashkenazi, Jewish comic artists to renowned Jewish philosophers and politicians, Libicki portrays an array of authentic Jewish people in several contexts of history.

MIRIAM LIBICKI is a graphic novelist living in Vancouver. Her memoir *jobnik!* has been a required text in over ten university courses, and her short comics have been widely published. She teaches cartooning and illustration at Emily Carr University of Art and Design and is currently the writer-in residence for the Vancouver Public Library.

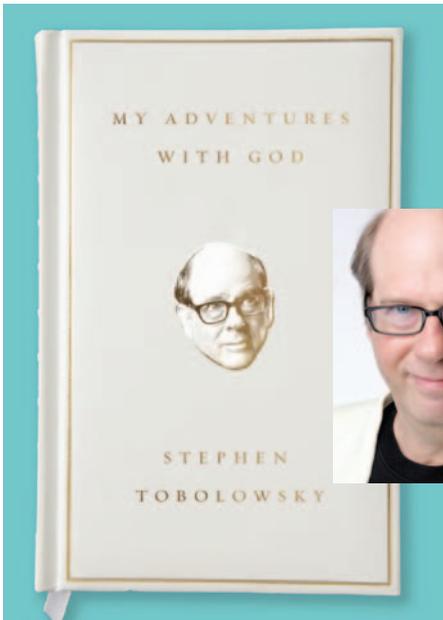
8:00-9:30pm

THE ULTIMATE STORYTELLER

\$20

STEPHEN TOBOLOWSKY / *My Adventures with God*

SPONSORED BY ELIE & ZEV SHAFRAN



"Stephen Tobolowsky is a natural storyteller. I found myself laughing giddily throughout his fascinating and strangely profound memoir. I hope God gets a chance to read it!" - Rainn Wilson

Tobolowsky returns to the written word with *My Adventures With God*, a funny, introspective story collection about love, catastrophe and triumph that, in turn, describes his evolving relationship with the mystery that we call "God." As he explains, "It's hard to believe in nothing. Even cats believe in supertime. As much as we love certainty, we are often shaped by the invisible, the unexplainable—something we call faith. We are inclined to acknowledge the holy. Even if it is only a paper heart we find in an old suitcase."

The book tells of a boy growing up in the wilds of Texas, finding and losing love, losing and finding himself - all told through the prism of the Torah and Talmud, mixed with insights from science, and refined through a child's sense of wonder. *My Adventures With God* not only shines a light into the life of one of America's most beloved actors, but also provides a structure to evaluate our own lives and relationship with God.

STEPHEN TOBOLOWSKY has appeared in over 100 movies and 200 television shows—from *Mississippi Burning*, to *Groundhog Day*, to *Glee* and *Silicon Valley*. In addition to being a legendary character actor, he is also the consummate storyteller—warm, funny, and profound. Tobolowsky first showcased his skills in the popular podcast *The Tobolowsky Files*; then in his first book, *The Dangerous Animals Club*; and has since developed a cult following, appearing at theatres around the world.



NEW Bi-Annual Western Canada Jewish Book Awards

2018 WCJBA CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

An integral part of the Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival, The Western Canada Jewish Book Awards initiative is designed to celebrate excellence in writing on Jewish themes / subject and showcase the achievements of authors from Western Canada.

Geographical delineation: for the intent of this award, Western Canada covers the area from West of the Manitoba-Ontario border, including the Northern regions, to the BC coast.

Authors are invited to submit their books by **December 31, 2017**. Books published in 2016 and 2017 will be accepted.

CATEGORIES:

- Fiction – The Diamond Foundation Prize
- Non-fiction – The Pinsky Givon Family Prize
- Poetry – The Betty Averbach Foundation Prize
- Children and Youth – The Jonathan & Heather Berkowitz Prize
- Holocaust - The Marsid Foundation Prize

ELIGIBILITY:

The author must have lived in Western Canada for the past 12 months or have lived in Western Canada for at least 3 of the past 5 years. Full details on eligibility: www.jewishbookfestival.ca

JUDGING AND PRIZE INFORMATION:

The books will be judged by independent industry professionals. The winners will be announced and celebrated in the spring of 2018. There will be an award of \$2,000 for each winner.

CONTACT

Dana Camil Hewitt, JCC Jewish Book Festival Director
604-257-5156; jbf@jccgv.bc.ca

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Poetry, Music & Art in the Zack Gallery

Inspired by
LIGHT WITHIN
THE SHADOWS:
PNINA GRANIRER

Tuesday
December 5
7:00–9:00pm



Pnina Granirer "Out of the Flames" triptych

HOST: Rosemary Nowicki
READERS: Bonnie Nish, Fran Bourasa, Natasha Boskic,
Angela Rebrec, Jude Neale, David Sewell, John Cortens
FEATURED POET: Timothy Shay
FEATURED MUSICIAN: Franki Lemon

Presented by the Sidney and Gertrude Zack Gallery in collaboration with Pandora's Collective and the Isaac Waldman Jewish Public Library. Made possible by the Yosef Wosk Poetry Initiative Grant.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF CANADA VANCOUVER SECTION

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- Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
- Books for Kids – literacy programs
- Early childhood programs of nutrition, hygiene, social skills
- Jewish Genetic Diseases and Organ Transplants
- ALUMA – family counselling programs in Israel
- Book and Discussion groups

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I would like to be informed by e-mail of upcoming literary events.

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DROP OFF FORM or mail to Dana Camil Hewitt, Festival Director,
950 West 41st Avenue Vancouver BC V5Z 2N7

Check here if you would like a tax receipt.

PRIZE DRAW

On closing night, there will be a draw for an impressive basket of new books by featured authors (value over \$500) from the first 100 donation forms received. Thank you for your support.



Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver
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festival authors and moderators

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thank you

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AS OF PRESS TIME

REMEMBERING CHERIE SMITH

Cherie Smith founded the Jewish Book Festival in Vancouver in 1984. She passed away in July 1999. Cherie served as the Festival's chairperson, literary inspiration and tireless worker for many years. Her lifelong love of books was evident in her career as an editor, publisher and author of her own family history, *Mendel's Children: A Family Chronicle*. Cherie's legacy lives on through the thousands of people who flock to the Festival each year.



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**Jewish Community Centre
of Greater Vancouver**



Tara Jean
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Bowen Zhang
Mandarin Edition
9:30pm

Jasdip Wahla
Punjabi Edition
8:00pm

Karen So
Cantonese Edition
9:00pm

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