



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **2011 NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

**Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Art Spiegelman Wins for  
*Metamaus***

**Simon Sebag Montefiore Awarded Book of the Year  
for *Jerusalem: The Biography***

**New York, January 10, 2012** – The Jewish Book Council announced today the winners of the 2011 National Jewish Book Awards, now in its sixty-first year. This year’s winners include Pulitzer Prize-winning author and illustrator Art Spiegelman, whose new book, *MetaMaus: A Look Inside a Modern Classic, Maus* (Pantheon/Random House), wins for Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir. The judges describe it “as brilliant and paradigm-shattering as...*Maus*... a work of genius.”

Israeli novelist Aharon Appelfeld wins his third National Jewish Book Award in fiction for *Until the Dawn’s Light* (Schocken Books/Random House), a novel overflowing with “ferocious agony...[and] powerfully spare prose” says the *Jerusalem Post*. Ned Beaman, the 26-year-old author of *Boxer, Beetle* (Bloomsbury USA), receives Outstanding Debut Fiction; the book has earned glowing praise from *The Guardian* as a “gripping and clever” novel.

The Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award is awarded to Simon Sebag Montefiore for his epic history, *Jerusalem: The Biography* (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House), which *The New York Times* declared is “impossible to put down.”

This year, the Jewish Book Council recognizes the long-time contributions of board member and book lover, the late Myra H. Kraft. An award in her memory has been

established for her dedication to the world of Jewish literature. The Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award in Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice is endowed by her husband, Robert Kraft, and her family.

**The winners of the 2011 National Jewish Book Awards will be honored on March 14 at a gala awards ceremony to be held at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan. The awards ceremony, which begins at 8:00 p.m., is free and open to the public.** Masters of ceremony for the event are Samuel G. Freedman, author of the National Jewish Book Award-winner *Jew vs. Jew*, and Abigail Pogrebin, bestselling author and journalist. Press may reserve their seat at the awards ceremony by contacting Sharon Bruce at the Jewish Book Council at [Sharon@jewishbooks.org](mailto:Sharon@jewishbooks.org).

In conjunction with the announcement of the 2011 awards, the Jewish Book Council launches a new website, [www.JewishBookCouncil.org](http://www.JewishBookCouncil.org), featuring thousands of book reviews, purchase links, social media sharing options, Jewish book club resources, calendar listings for events around the country, guest author blogs, updates from the Jewish literary scene and much more. The site provides a wealth of information for readers, authors, and publishers, and is poised to become a hub of contemporary Jewish literary thought and practice.

**About the National Jewish Book Awards:** As the longest-running North American awards program of its kind in the field of Jewish literature, the National Jewish Book Awards is designed to recognize outstanding books of Jewish interest. In addition to the above-mentioned winners, awards are given out this year in fourteen categories. A complete list of the 2011 National Jewish Book Award winners and finalists follows and additional information is available at [www.JewishBookCouncil.org](http://www.JewishBookCouncil.org).

## **Jewish Book of the Year Award**

Everett Family Foundation

*Jerusalem: The Biography*

Simon Sebag Montefiore

Alfred A. Knopf/Random House

## **American Jewish Studies**

Celebrate 350 Award

**Winner:**

*The Benderly Boys and American Jewish Education*

Jonathan B. Krasner

Brandeis University Press

**Finalist:**

*The Independent Orders of B'nai B'rith and True Sisters: Pioneers of a New Jewish Identity, 1843-1914*

Cornelia Wilhelm  
Wayne State University Press

## **Anthologies and Collections**

### **Winner:**

*Gender and Jewish History*  
Marion A. Kaplan and Deborah Dash Moore, eds.  
Indiana University Press

### **Finalists:**

Moses Mendelssohn: Writings on Judaism, Christianity, and the Bible  
Michah Gottlieb, ed.  
Brandeis University Press

Portraits in Literature: The Jews of Poland  
Hava Bromberg Ben-Zvi, ed.  
Valentine Mitchell

## **Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir**

The Krauss Family Award in Memory of Simon & Shulamith (Sofi) Goldberg

### **Winner:**

*MetaMaus: A Look Inside a Modern Classic, Maus*  
Art Spiegelman  
Pantheon/Random House

### **Finalists:**

*Emma Goldman: Revolution as a Way of Life*  
Vivian Gornick  
Yale University Press

*Following Ezra: What One Father Learned About Gumby, Otters, Autism, and Love from His Extraordinary Son*  
Tom Fields-Meyer  
Penguin

## **Children's and Young Adult Literature**

### **Winner:**

*Deadly: How Do You Catch an Invisible Killer*  
Julie Chibbaro  
Atheneum/Simon & Schuster

### **Finalists:**

*In the Face of Evil*  
Tema N. Merback  
FriesenPress

*To Hope and Back: The Journey of the St. Louis*  
Kathy Kacer

Second Story Press

*Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein*  
Susan Goldman Rubin  
Charlesbridge

## **Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice**

Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award

### **Winner:**

*A Guide to Jewish Practice: Everyday Living*  
Rabbi David A. Teutsch  
RRC Press

### **Finalists:**

*The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic*  
Mary L. Zamore  
Central Conference of American Rabbis

*The Koren Rosh Hashana Mahzor*  
Rabbi Jonathan Sacks  
Koren Publishers Jerusalem

## **Fiction**

JJ Greenberg Memorial Award

### **Winner:**

*Until the Dawn's Light*  
Aharon Appelfeld; Jeffrey M. Green, trans.  
Schocken Books/Random House

### **Finalists:**

*One More River*  
Mary Glickman  
Open Road Integrated Media

*Life on Sandpaper*  
Yoram Kaniuk; Anthony Berris, trans.  
Dalkey Archive Press

*The Vices*  
Lawrence Douglas  
Other Press

## **History**

Gerrard and Ella Berman Memorial Award

### **Winner:**

*The Anatomy of Israel's Survival*  
Hirsh Goodman  
PublicAffairs Books

**Finalists:**

*Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza*  
Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole  
Schocken Books/Nextbook Press/Random House

*The Unmaking of Israel*  
Gershom Gorenberg  
HarperCollins

**Holocaust****Winner:**

*Nazis on the Run: How Hitler's Henchmen Fled Justice*  
Gerald Steinacher  
Oxford University Press

**Finalists:**

*The Eichmann Trial*  
Deborah Lipstadt  
Schocken Books/Nextbook Press/Random House

*Through Soviet Jewish Eyes: Photography, War, and the Holocaust*  
David Shneer  
Rutgers University Press

**Illustrated Children's Book**

Louis Posner Memorial Award

**Winner:**

*The Golem's Latkes*  
Adapted by Eric A. Kimmel; Aaron Jasinski, illus.  
Marshall Cavendish

**Finalists:**

*Lipman Pike, America's First Home Run King*  
Richard Michelson; Zachary Pullen, illus.  
Sleeping Bear Press

*Marcel Marceau, Master of Mime*  
Gloria Spielman; Manon Gauthier, illus.  
Kar-Ben Publishing

**Modern Jewish Thought and Experience**

Dorot Foundation Award in Memory of Joy Ungerleider Mayerson

**Winner:**

*The Choice to Be: A Jewish Path to Self and Spirituality*  
Rabbi Jeremy Kagan  
Feldheim Publishers

**Finalists:**

*The Koren Rosh HaShana Mahzor*  
Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Koren Publishers Jerusalem

*Disenchantment: George Steiner and the Meaning of Western Civilization after Auschwitz*  
Catherine D. Chatterley  
Syracuse University Press

## **Outstanding Debut Fiction**

Foundation for Jewish Culture's Goldberg Prize

### **Winner:**

*Boxer, Beetle*  
Ned Beauman  
Bloomsbury USA

### **Finalist:**

*A Stranger on the Planet*  
Adam Schwartz  
Soho Press

## **Poetry**

### **Winner:**

*Wait*  
C.K. Williams  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux

### **Finalists:**

*These Mountains: Selected Poems of Rivka Miriam*  
Rivka Miriam; Linda Stern Zisquit, trans.  
The Toby Press

*Tonight No Poetry Will Serve: Poems 2007-2010*  
Adrienne Rich  
W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

## **Scholarship**

Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award

### **Winner:**

*Becoming the People of the Talmud: Oral Torah as Written Tradition in Medieval Jewish Cultures*  
Talya Fishman  
University of Pennsylvania Press

### **Finalist:**

*Palaces of Time*  
Elisheva Carlebach  
Harvard University Press

## **Sephardic Culture**

Mimi S. Frank Award in Memory of Becky Levy

**Winner:**

*Ottoman Brothers: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Early Twentieth-Century Palestine*  
Michelle U. Campos  
Stanford University Press

**Finalists:**

*Sephardi Family Life in the Early Modern Diaspora*  
Julia R. Lieberman, ed.  
Brandeis University Press

*Modern Ladino Culture*  
Olga Borovaya  
Indiana University Press

**Visual Arts****Winner:**

*Alias Man Ray: The Art of Reinvention*  
Mason Klein  
Yale University Press/The Jewish Museum

**Finalists:**

*Houdini: Art and Magic*  
Brooke Kamin Rapaport, ed.  
Yale University Press/The Jewish Museum

*Building after Auschwitz: Jewish Architecture and the Memory of the Holocaust*  
Gavriel D. Rosenfeld  
Yale University Press

*A Journey through Jewish Worlds: Highlights from the Braginsky Collection of Hebrew Manuscripts and Printed Books*  
Evelyn M. Cohen, Sharon Liberman Mintz, and Emile G.L. Schrijver, eds.  
Bijzondere Collecties, Universiteit Van Amsterdam

**Women's Studies**

Barbara Dobkin Award

**Winner:**

*The JPS Bible Commentary: Ruth*  
Dr. Tamara Cohn Eskenazi and Dr. Tikva Frymer-Kensky  
The Jewish Publication Society

**Finalists:**

*Sexual Violence against Jewish Women during the Holocaust*  
Sonja M. Hedgepeth, Rochelle G. Saidel, eds.  
Brandeis University Press

*In Her Hands: The Education of Jewish Girls in Tsarist Russia*  
Eliyana R. Adler  
Wayne State University Press

*Biblical Seductions: Six Stories Retold Based on Talmud and Midrash*  
Sandra E. Rapoport  
KTAV Publishing House

**Writing Based on Archival Material**

The JDC-Herbert Katzki Award

**Winner:**

*Odessa: Genius and Death in a City of Dreams*

Charles King

W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

[www.JewishBookCouncil.org](http://www.JewishBookCouncil.org)