

2009 Nat'l Jewish Book Awards Announced

Everett Award Goes to Biography of Justice Brandeis by Melvin Urofsky

Inaugural JJ Greenberg Memorial Prize for Fiction

Ruth Gruber Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award
Hasia R. Diner, Daniel Gordis, Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks
& Other Notable Thinkers Snag Top Honors

59th Annual Awards Ceremony to be Held March 9th in NYC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New York, NY, (January 13, 2010) – A breakthrough book challenging the myth of silence after the Shoah. A sweeping biography of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis. A thrilling young adult novel based on the tragic voyage of the M.S. St. Louis. A bold prescriptive from the Senior vice president of the Shalem Center on how the Jewish people can save Israel. A rare glimpse into the lives of Jews from Arab countries who relocated to Israel. A beautiful illustrated Bible for children.

These and twelve other remarkable works will be honored at the **59th Annual National Jewish Book Awards**. Many of this year's honorees are nationally-acclaimed academics, poets and authors. In addition, the iconic Ruth Gruber will be saluted for her groundbreaking body of work, earning the 2009 Jewish Book Council Lifetime Achievement Award.

The winners of the 2009 National Jewish Book Award will be honored on March 9th, 2010 at a gala award ceremony to be held at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan, located at 15 West 16th Street. The awards ceremony, which begins at 7:30 p.m., is free and open to the public.

For the second year in a row, the masters of ceremony for the event are **Ari L. Goldman and Alana Newhouse**. Mr. Goldman, an author and former *New York Times* writer, is a professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of

Journalism. Ms. Newhouse, an author and former *Forward* editor, is the Editor-in-Chief of *Tablet Magazine*.

This year's top honorees include Joseph Kertes, author of *Gratitude: A Novel* (Thomas Dunne Books), winner of the Fiction award, recently named in memory of the beloved JJ Greenberg; **Hasia R. Diner**, author of *We Remember with Reverence and Love: American Jews and the Myth of Silence after the Holocaust, 1945-1962* (New York University Press), winner of the American Jewish Studies, Celebrate 350 Award; **Melvin I. Urofsky**, winner of the Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of Year Award for *Louis D. Brandeis: A Life* (Pantheon Books); **Daniel Gordis**, for *Saving Israel: How the Jewish People Can Win a War That May Never End* (John Wiley & Sons), winner of the Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice award. **Ellen Frankel** and **Avi Katz** of the Jewish Publication Society won the Louis Posner Memorial Award in Illustrated Children's Books for the *JPS Illustrated Children's Bible*.

Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, wins the Dorot Foundation Award in memory of Joy Ungerleider Mayerson in Modern Jewish Thought & Experience for his brilliant work, *Covenant & Conversation: A Weekly Reading of the Jewish Bible, Genesis: The Beginnings* (Maggid Books (Koren Publisher), with the OU Press).

The Simon & Shulamith (Sofi) Goldberg Memorial Award in Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir goes to **Dina Porat** for *The Fall of a Sparrow: The Life and Times of Abba Kovner* (Stanford University Press); and **Alicia Suskin Ostriker** will take home the top Poetry prize for *The Book of Seventy* (University of Pittsburgh Press). The Children's and Young Adult Literature award belongs to **Kim Ablon Whitney** for *The Other Half of Life: A Novel Based on the True Story of the MS St. Louis* (Knopf Books for Young Readers).

The esteemed Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award in Scholarship goes to *Subversive Sequels in the Bible: How Biblical Stories Mine and Undermine Each Other* by **Judy Klitsner** (Jewish Publication Society). **Ayala Fader's** acclaimed book, *Mitzvah Girls: Bringing Up the Next Generation of Hasidic Jews in Brooklyn* (Princeton University Press) wins this year's Barbara Dobkin Award in Women's Studies. The Mimi S. Frank Award in Memory of Becky Levy in Sephardic Culture award goes to **Rachel Shabi's** *We Look Like the Enemy: The Hidden Story of Israel's Jews from Arab Lands* (Walker & Company).

Additional winning works focus on such far-ranging topics as the Holocaust in the Soviet Union; innovative Jewish holiday celebrations; a stunning look at American art from 1940-1976...and more.

ATTENTION PRESS: Please RSVP to Shira Dicker at shira.dicker@sd-media.com or 917.403.3989 so we know you are coming and can reserve a seat and press kit for you.

A complete list of winners and finalists of the 2009 National Jewish Book Awards follows.

2009 National Jewish Book Award Winners and Finalists

2009 Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award

Louis D. Brandeis: A Life
Melvin I. Urofsky
Pantheon Books

Jewish Book Council Lifetime Achievement Award

Ruth Gruber

Ahead of Time: My Early Years as a Foreign Correspondent
(Wynwood)

Exodus 1947: The Ship That Launched a Nation
(Crown)

Destination Palestine: The Story of the Haganah Ship Exodus, 1947
(Current Books)

Haven: The Dramatic Story of 1000 World War II Refugees and How They Came to America
(Coward-McCann)

I Went To The Soviet Union
(Viking Press)

Israel Today: Land of Many Nations
(Hill and Wang)

Raquela: A Woman of Israel
(Coward, McCann & Geoghegan)

Rescue: The Exodus of the Ethiopian Jews
(Atheneum)

Witness: One of the Great Correspondents of the Twentieth Century Tells Her Story
(Schocken Books)

American Jewish Studies Celebrate 350 Award

Winner:

We Remember with Reverence and Love: American Jews and the Myth of Silence after the Holocaust, 1945-1962

Hasia R. Diner

New York University Press

Finalists:

Orthodox Jews in America

Jeffrey S. Gurock

Indiana University Press

Jewish Immigrants and American Capitalism, 1880-1920: From Caste to Class

Eli Lederhendler

Cambridge University Press

Anthologies and Collections

Winner:

Rethinking European Jewish History

Jeremy Cohen and Moshe Rosman, eds.

The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization

Finalists:

Place and Displacement in Jewish History and Memory: Zakor V'makor

David Cesarani, Tony Kushner, Milton Shain, eds.

Vallentine Mitchell

Jewish Musical Modernism, Old and New

Philip V. Bohlman, ed.

University of Chicago Press

**Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir
In Memory of Simon & Shulamith (Sofi) Goldberg**

Winner:

The Fall of a Sparrow: The Life and Times of Abba Kovner
Dina Porat; Elizabeth Yuval, trans. & ed.
Stanford University Press

Finalists:

Rosenfeld's Lives: Fame, Oblivion, and the Furies of Writing
Steven J. Zipperstein
Yale University Press

Enemies of the People: My Family's Journey to America
Kati Marton
Simon & Schuster

Children's and Young Adult Literature

Winner:

The Other Half of Life: A Novel Based on the True Story of the MS St. Louis
Kim Ablon Whitney
Knopf Books for Young Readers

Finalists:

Cursing Columbus
Eve Tal
Cinco Puntos Press

Clay Man: The Golem of Prague
Irene N. Watts; Kathryn E. Shoemaker, illus.
Tundra Books

Lost
Jacqueline Davies
Marshall Cavendish

Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice

Winner:

Saving Israel: How the Jewish People Can Win a War That May Never End
Daniel Gordis
John Wiley & Sons

Finalists:

Far from Zion: In Search of a Global Jewish Community
Charles London
William Morrow

Jewcentricity: Why the Jews Are Praised, Blamed, and Used to Explain Just About Everything
Adam Garfinkle
John Wiley & Sons

Fiction

JJ Greenberg Memorial Award

Winner:

Gratitude: A Novel
Joseph Kertes
Thomas Dunne Books

Finalists:

The Last Ember
Daniel Levin
Riverhead

Pictures at an Exhibition
Sara Houghteling
Knopf

Polyglot: Stories of the West's wet edge
Wendy Marcus
Beth Am Press

The Legend of Cosmo and the Archangel
Joseph Kaufman
French Creek Press

History
Gerrard and Ella Berman Memorial Award

Winner:

Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America
Beryl Satter
Metropolitan Books (Henry Holt and Company)

Finalists:

Jewish Property Claims Against Arab Countries
Michael R. Fischbach
Columbia University Press

Major Farran's Hat: The Untold Story of the Struggle to Establish the Jewish State
David Cesarani
Da Capo Press

We Look Like the Enemy: The Hidden Story of Israel's Jews from Arab Lands
Rachel Shabi
Walker & Company

Holocaust

Winner:

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933-1945, Volume 1
Geoffrey P. Megargee, volume editor
Indiana University Press

Finalists:

The Warsaw Ghetto: A Guide to the Perished City
Barbara Engelking and Jacek Leociak; Emma Harris, trans.
Yale University Press

The Third Reich in the Ivory Tower: Complicity and Conflict on American Campuses

Stephen H. Norwood
Cambridge University Press

**Illustrated Children's Books
Louis Posner Memorial Award**

Winner:

JPS Illustrated Children's Bible
Ellen Frankel; Avi Katz, illus.
Jewish Publication Society

Finalists:

Nachshon, Who Was Afraid to Swim: A Passover Story
Deborah Bodin Cohen; Jago, illus.
Kar-Ben Publishing

The Champion of Children: The Story of Janusz Korczak
Tomek Bogacki
Farrar, Straus, and Giroux

**Jewish Family Literature
In Memory of Dorothy Kripke**

Winner:

Celebrating the Jewish Year: The Spring and Summer Holidays: Passover, The Omer, Shavuot, Tisha b'Av
Paul Steinberg; Janet Greenstein Potter, ed.
Jewish Publication Society

Finalists:

JPS Illustrated Children's Bible
Ellen Frankel; Avi Katz, illus.
Jewish Publication Society

Sacred Parenting: Jewish Wisdom and Practical Guidance for Your Family's Early Years
Elaine Rose Glickman

URJ Press

Modern Jewish Thought & Experience
Dorot Foundation Award In Memory of Joy Ungerleider Mayerson

Winner:

Covenant & Conversation, A Weekly Reading of the Jewish Bible, Genesis: The Book of Beginnings

Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth

Maggid Books, an imprint of Koren Publishers, with the OU Press (of the Orthodox Union)

Finalists:

Nehama Leibowitz: Teacher and Bible Scholar

Yael Unterman

Urim Publications

The Murmuring Deep: Reflections on the Biblical Unconscious

Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg

Schocken Books

The Koren Sacks Siddur: A Hebrew/English Prayerbook

Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks

Koren Publishers

Poetry

Winner:

The Book of Seventy

Alicia Suskin Ostriker

University of Pittsburgh Press

Finalists:

Ezekiel's Wheels

Shirley Kaufman

Copper Canyon Press

Door to a Noisy Room
Peter Waldor
Alice James Books

Stupid Hope: Poems
Jason Shinder
Graywolf Press

Scholarship
Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award

Winner:

Subversive Sequels in the Bible: How Biblical Stories Mine and Undermine Each Other
Judy Klitsner
Jewish Publication Society

Finalists:

Maimonides, Spinoza and Us: Toward an Intellectually Vibrant Judaism
Rabbi Marc D. Angel
Jewish Lights Publishing

The Invention of Hebrew
Seth L. Sanders
University of Illinois Press

Sephardic Culture
Mimi S. Frank Award in Memory of Becky Levy

Winner:

We Look Like the Enemy: The Hidden Story of Israel's Jews from Arab Lands
Rachel Shabi
Walker & Company

Visual Arts

Winner:

Action/Abstraction: Pollock, de Kooning, and American Art, 1940-1976

Norman L. Kleeblatt, ed.
Yale University Press
Published in association with The Jewish Museum

Finalists:

Chagall and the Artists of the Russian Jewish Theater
Susan Tumarkin Goodman, with essays by Zvi Gitelman, Vladislav Ivanov, Jeffrey
Veidlinger, and Benjamin Harshav
Yale University Press
Published in association with The Jewish Museum

*Photographing the Jewish Nation: Pictures from S. An-Sky's Ethnographic
Expeditions*
Eugene M. Avrutin, Valerii Dymshits, Alexander Ivanov, Alexander Lvov, Harriet
Murav, and Alla Sokolova, eds.
Brandeis University Press

**Women's Studies
Barbara Dobkin Award**

Winner:

Mitzvah Girls: Bringing Up the Next Generation of Hasidic Jews in Brooklyn
Ayala Fader
Princeton University Press

Finalists:

Levirate Marriage and the Family in Ancient Judaism
Dvora E. Weisberg
Brandeis University Press

Still Jewish: A History of Women and Intermarriage in America
Keren R. McGinity
New York University Press

Meneket Rivkah: A Manual of Wisdom and Piety for Jewish Women
Original text by Rivkah bat Meir; Translated from the original Yiddish to
German, with introduction and commentary by Frauke Von Rohden
Jewish Publication Society

**Writing Based on Archival Material
The JDC-Herbert Katzki Award**

Winner:

The Holocaust in the Soviet Union
Yitzhak Arad; Ora Cummings, trans.
University of Nebraska Press and Yad Vashem

ABOUT THE JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL

The Jewish Book Council is a not-for-profit organization devoted exclusively to the promotion of Jewish-interest literature. Through an ever-growing list of projects and programs, including the National Jewish Book Awards, the Jewish Book NETWORK, the quarterly publication *Jewish Book World*, and a dynamic website and blog, the Jewish Book Council serves as a catalyst for the reading, writing, and publishing of books of Jewish interest.

For more information about the Jewish Book Council and the 2009 National Jewish Book Awards, visit www.jewishbookcouncil.org or contact Shira Dicker at shira.dicker@sd-media.com or 917.403.3989.