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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.

In conjunction with the announcement of the 2011 awards, the Jewish Book Council launches a new website, 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.

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