

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **2016 NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

**Book of the Year Awarded to  
*Israel* by Daniel Gordis**

**Rose Tremain Wins Fiction Category for  
*The Gustav Sonata***

**Michael Chabon Awarded  
JBC's Modern Literary Achievement Award**

**New York, January 11, 2017** – The Jewish Book Council announced today the winners of the 2016 National Jewish Book Awards, now in its sixty-sixth year. This year's winners include the Everett Family Foundation Book of the Year, which is awarded to Daniel Gordis's *Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn* (Ecco), described by Jewish Book Council's reviewer as "a new history of Israel [that] should become a standard for years to come, perhaps even a classic."

Michael Chabon is the winner of JBC's Modern Literary Achievement Award for his general contribution to modern Jewish literature, including his most recent work, *Moonglow* (Harper), described by Jewish Book Council's committee as "a moving panorama of Jewish experience. Chabon serves up his colossal tale of darkness and light in fabulous language, as befits this modern fable."

Three additional novels took top fiction honors, including Rose Tremain, winner of the coveted JJ Greenberg Fiction Award for *The Gustav Sonata* (W. W. Norton & Company) — recently listed by Lit Hub as one of their "10 Overlooked Books by Women in 2016"; Lauren Belfer, the first recipient of the Debby and Ken Miller Book Club Award for her work *And After the Fire* (Harper), which has inspired conversations across the country;

and Gavriel Savit, winner of the Goldberg Prize for Debut Fiction for *Anna and the Swallow Man* (Knopf Books for Young Readers).

French bestselling author Marceline Loridan-Ivens wins her first National Jewish Book Award in the Krauss Family's Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir category for *But You Did Not Come Back* (Grove Atlantic) and Stanley Moss wins the inaugural Berru Award in Memory of Ruth and Bernie Weinflash in the category of Poetry for *Almost Complete Poems* (Seven Stories Press).

The Barbara Dobkin Award in Women's Studies winner is *The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate* (CCAR Press), co-edited by Rabbi Rebecca Einstein Schorr and Rabbi Alysa Mendelson Graf and the Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award in Scholarship is presented to Benjamin R. Gampel for *Anti-Jewish Riots in the Crown of Aragon and the Royal Response, 1391-1392* (Cambridge University Press).

Please see the full list of winners and the finalists in 20 National Jewish Book Award categories below.

**The winners of the 2016 National Jewish Book Awards will be honored on March 7, 2017 at a gala awards dinner and ceremony to be held at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan. The program will be hosted by Abigail Pogrebin, author, most recently, of the forthcoming memoir *My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew* (Fig Tree Books). The reception and dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.—to buy tickets, please call 212-201-2920.**

If press is interested in attending the awards ceremony, please contact Evie Sapphire-Bernstein at the Jewish Book Council at [evie@jewishbooks.org](mailto:evie@jewishbooks.org).

Jewish Book Council is a not-for-profit dedicated to promoting Jewish interest literature. With over 280 touring authors each year, over 1,000 book clubs, over 1,100 events, its newest annual print publication, *Paper Brigade*, the National Jewish Book Awards and the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, and a vibrant digital presence, JBC ensures that Jewish interest authors have a platform, that readers are able to find books on topics across Jewish life that may interest them, and ultimately have the tools to discuss those works with their community.

In 2017, JBC is pleased to add to its roster of activities a new partnership with the Natan Fund to present the Natan Book Award. The Natan Book Award at the Jewish Book

Council supports and promotes a breakthrough book intended for mainstream audiences that will catalyze conversations around Jewish life and community in the 21st century. Submission guidelines and details can be found at [www.jewishbookcouncil.org/awards/natanbookaward](http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/awards/natanbookaward).

**About the National Jewish Book Awards:**The National Jewish Book Award was established by the Jewish Book Council in 1950 in order to recognize outstanding works of Jewish literature. 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 2016 National Jewish Book Award winners and finalists follows and additional information is available at [www.JewishBookCouncil.org](http://www.JewishBookCouncil.org).

### **2016 National Jewish Book Award Winners and Finalists**

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

Everett Family Foundation Award

*Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn* (Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)  
Daniel Gordis

#### **JBC Modern Jewish Literary Achievement Award**

Michael Chabon is the winner of JBC's Modern Literary Achievement Award for his general contribution to modern Jewish literature, including his most recent work, *Moonglow* (Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers).

#### **American Jewish Studies Celebrate 350 Award**

##### **Winner:**

*Kosher USA: How Coke Became Kosher and Other Tales of Modern Food* (Columbia University Press)  
Roger Horowitz

**Finalists:**

*Who Rules the Synagogue?: Religious Authority and the Formation of American Judaism* (Oxford University Press)

Zev Eleff

*The Salome Ensemble* (Syracuse University Press)

Alan Robert Ginsberg

**Anthologies and Collections****Winner:**

*Makers of Jewish Modernity: Thinkers, Artists, Leaders, and the World They Made* (Princeton University Press)

Jacques Picard, Jacques Revel, Michael P. Steinberg, Idith Zertal, eds.

**Finalists:**

*Love Finer Than Wine: The Writings of Matthew Eisenfeld and Sara Duker* (Createspace)

Edward C. Bernstein

*Love, Marriage, and Jewish Families: Paradoxes of a Social Revolution* (Brandeis University Press)

Sylvia Barack Fishman

*Have I Got a Story for You: More Than a Century of Fiction from the Forward* (W. W. Norton & Company)

Ezra Glinter

**Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir**

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

**Winner:**

*But You Did Not Come Back* (Grove Atlantic)

Marceline Loridan-Ivens; Sandra Smith, trans.

**Finalist:**

*In the Darkroom* (Metropolitan Books)

Susan Faludi

## **Book Club Award**

### **The Debby and Ken Miller Award**

#### **Winner:**

*And After the Fire* (Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)  
Lauren Belfer

#### **Finalists:**

*Two She-Bears* (Schocken Books)  
Meir Shalev, Stuart Schoffman, trans.

*Beauty Queen of Jerusalem* (St. Martin's Press)  
Sarit Yishai-Levy, Anthony Berris, trans.

## **Children's Literature**

#### **Winner:**

*I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark* (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)  
Debbie Levy; Elizabeth Baddeley, illus.

#### **Finalists:**

*Dreidels on the Brain* (Dial Books)  
Joel ben Izzy

*The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog*  
(Dutton Books for Young Readers)  
Adam Gidwitz

## **Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice**

### **Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award**

#### **Winner:**

*Changing the World from the Inside Out: A Jewish Approach to Personal and Social Change* (Shambhala Publications, Inc.)  
Rabbi David Jaffe

**Finalists:**

*The Gefilte Manifesto: New Recipes for Old World Jewish Foods* (Flatiron Books)  
Liz Alpern and Jeffrey Yoskowitz

*The Heart of Loneliness: How Jewish Wisdom Can Help You Cope and Find Comfort*  
(Jewish Lights Publishing)  
Rabbi Marc Katz

*Nurture the Wow: Finding Spirituality in the Frustration, Boredom, Tears, Poop,  
Desperation, Wonder, and Radical Amazement of Parenting* (Flatiron Books)  
Danya Ruttenberg

**Debut Fiction  
Goldberg Prize****Winner:**

*Anna and the Swallow Man* (Knopf Books for Young Readers)  
Gavriel Savit

**Finalists:**

*The Yid* (Picador)  
Paul Goldberg

*The Beautiful Possible* (Harper Perennial, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)  
Amy Gottlieb

**Education and Jewish Identity  
In Memory of Dorothy Kripke****Winner:**

*Next Generation Judaism: How College Students and Hillel Can Help Reinvent Jewish  
Organizations* (Jewish Lights Publishing)  
Mike Uram

**Finalist:**

*Judaisms: A Twenty-First-Century Introduction to Jews and Jewish Identities* (University of California Press)

Aaron J. Hahn Tapper

**Fiction**

**JJ Greenberg Memorial Award**

**Winner:**

*The Gustav Sonata* (W. W. Norton & Company)

Rose Tremain

**Finalists:**

*Carry Me* (Pantheon Books)

Peter Behrens

*Charlotte* (The Overlook Press)

David Foerkinos

**History**

**Gerrard and Ella Berman Memorial Award**

**Winner:**

*The Angel: The Egyptian Spy Who Saved Israel* (Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)

Uri Bar-Joseph

**Finalists:**

*Dreams Deferred: A Concise Guide to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Movement to Boycott Israel*

(Indiana University Press)

Cary Nelson, ed.

*East West Street: On the Origins of "Genocide" and "Crimes Against Humanity"*

(Knopf)

Philippe Sands

## **Holocaust**

### **Winner:**

*Holocaust, Genocide, and the Law: A Quest for Justice in a Post-Holocaust World*  
(Oxford University Press)

Michael Bazylar

### **Finalists:**

*The Holocaust in Croatia* (University of Pittsburgh Press)

Ivo Goldstein and Slavko Goldstein

*A History of the Grandparents I Never Had* (Stanford University Press)

Ivan Jablonka; Jane Kuntz, trans.

*Lessons of the Holocaust* (University of Toronto Press)

Michael R. Marrus

*East West Street: On the Origins of "Genocide" and "Crimes Against Humanity"*

(Knopf)

Philippe Sands

## **Modern Jewish Thought and Experience**

### **Dorot Foundation Award in Memory of Joy Ungerleider Mayerson**

### **Winner:**

*Never Better!: The Modern Jewish Picaresque* (University of Michigan Press)

Miriam Udel

### **Finalist:**

*Modern Orthodox Judaism: A Documentary History* (Jewish Publication Society)

Zev Eleff

## **Poetry**

### **Berru Award in Memory of Ruth and Bernie Weinflash**

### **Winner:**

*Almost Complete Poems* (Seven Stories Press)

Stanley Moss



**Finalists:**

*Two Worlds Exist* (Orison Books)

Yehoshua November

*Go On* (Parlor Press)

Ethel Rackin

**Scholarship****Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award****Winner:**

*Anti-Jewish Riots in the Crown of Aragon and the Royal Response, 1391-1392*

(Cambridge University Press)

Benjamin R. Gampel

**Finalists:**

*Clepsydra: Essay on the Plurality of Time in Judaism* (Stanford University Press)

Sylvie Anne Goldberg; Benjamin Ivry, trans.

*The Zohar: Reception and Impact* (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization)

Boaz Huss

*Sexuality in the Babylonian Talmud: Christian and Sasanian Contexts in Late Antiquity*

(Cambridge University Press)

Yishai Kiel

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

*Extraterritorial Dreams: European Citizenship, Sephardi Jews, and the Ottoman*

*Twentieth Century* (University of Chicago Press)

Sarah Abrevaya Stein

**Finalists:**

*Homeless Tongues: Poetry and Languages of the Sephardic Diaspora* (Stanford

University Press)

Monique Rodrigues Balbuena

*Anti-Jewish Riots in the Crown of Aragon and the Royal Response, 1391-1392*  
(Cambridge University Press)  
Benjamin R. Gampel

*Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece* (Stanford University Press)  
Devin Naar

**Women's Studies**  
**Barbara Dobkin Award**

**Winner:**

*The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate* (CCAR Press)  
Rabbi Rebecca Einstein Schorr, Rabbi Alysa Mendelson Graf, eds.

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

**Winner:**

*Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece* (Stanford University Press)  
Devin E. Naar, Stanford University Press

**Finalist:**

*Anti-Jewish Riots in the Crown of Aragon and the Royal Response, 1391-1392*  
(Cambridge University Press) Benjamin R. Gampel

**Young Adult**  
**The Posner Award**

**Winner:**

*On Blackberry Hill* (CreateSpace)  
Rachel Mann

**Finalists:**

*Anna and the Swallow Man* (Knopf Books for Young Readers)

Gavriel Savit

*Another Me* (Tundra Books)

Eva Wiseman