

JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL'S 69th Annual National Jewish Book Awards

2019 GUIDELINES FOR ENTRIES



Jewish Book Council
520 8th Avenue, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10018
212-201-2920
www.jewishbookcouncil.org
E-mail: njba@jewishbooks.org

Everett Family Foundation
Jewish Book of the Year Award

American Jewish Studies
Celebrate 350 Award

Anthologies & Collections

Autobiography & Memoir
The Krauss Family Award In Memory
of Simon & Shulamith (Sofi) Goldberg

Biography
In Memory of Sara Berenson Stone

Book Club Award
The Miller Family Award in Memory of Helen Dunn
Weinstein and June Keit Miller

Children's Literature

Contemporary Jewish Life & Practice
Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award

Debut Fiction
Goldberg Prize

Education & Jewish Identity
In Memory of Dorothy Kripke

Fiction
JJ Greenberg Memorial Award

Food Writing & Cookbooks
Jane and Stuart Weitzman Family Award

History
Gerrard and Ella Berman Memorial Award

Holocaust
In Memory of Ernest W. Michel

Mentorship Award
In Honor of Carolyn Starman Hessel

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

Poetry
Berru Award in Memory of Ruth and Bernie Weinflash

Scholarship
Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award

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

Women's Studies
Barbara Dobkin Award

Writing Based on Archival Material
The JDC-Herbert Katzki Award

Visual Arts

Young Adult Literature

MISSION OF JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL

To promote the reading, writing, publishing, and distribution of quality books of Jewish content in English.



To serve as the national resource center for information about the American Jewish literary scene.



To serve as the coordinating body of Jewish literary activity in North America in both general and Jewish venues.



To serve as the North American representative of Jewish literature on the international scene.

NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARDS

The National Jewish Book Awards have been presented annually since 1950 to authors of books of exceptional literary achievement in a variety of Judaic subjects. The awards are designed to heighten awareness of outstanding books of Jewish interest published in the last year and

- to encourage the reading of meritorious books
- to recognize authors of outstanding Jewish literature
- to stimulate others to further literary creativity
- to acknowledge original contributions to scholarship

These awards acknowledge the seminal importance of a particular work. There is a monetary award for each winning author. A public presentation will recognize the superior efforts made by the author and publisher in preparation of the winning piece of literature. In addition, there is publicity for the event and the individual awardees. Presentations will be made at a gala dinner and ceremony on March 10, 2020 in New York City.



GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. Books, either hardcover or original paperback, published between **January 1, 2019–December 31, 2019** or have a copyright of the year under consideration are eligible. They may be submitted as finished copies, galleys or bound manuscripts, but, in the case of galleys or bound manuscripts, must be replaced by finished copies at time of publication. Submission may be by author or publisher.
2. If a book was published in November or December of 2018, and only if no galleys were available at that time, the book may be submitted for the 2019 program.
3. Complete series will not be accepted. The entire series need not be submitted. Each title in the series must be submitted as an individual entry in the year of publication.
4. A previously submitted title, new translations, and reissues may not be submitted, unless it has been substantially reworked and has a new copyright date. A book that has won a National Jewish Book Award before cannot be resubmitted, regardless of a new copyright date.
5. The book must be available in English and distributed in North America.
6. Translations are eligible and must be submitted in the copyright year of the English translation. The prize will be split between the author and translator.
7. Books available in e-book format only are accepted, however the selection must be submitted in hard copy for judging purposes. This may be in bound galley format.
8. For purposes of the National Jewish Book Awards, a Jewish book is one that deals with aspects of Judaism and Jewish life in the category(ies) delineated. A book cannot be considered for an awards category merely because its author is Jewish. A book written by a non-Jewish author is eligible if it has Jewish content.
9. Collections of previously published short stories, essays, or articles by a single author that are gathered into one compendium are eligible.
10. The entry form and guidelines for the Mentorship Award in honor of Carolyn Starman Hessel can be found at <https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/awards/national-jewish-book-awards>. Nominations should be made through the form found on that page.
11. Only works by authors who are living at the commencement of the eligible calendar year (January 1, 2019) may be submitted to the National Jewish Book Award competition; however, if the title is submitted to the Holocaust category, the book is still eligible even if the main author is deceased provided the following conditions apply: there is new material (e.g., introduction) written by a living author and that this is the first English translation of the title. The book must also hold a copyright of 2019 to be eligible.
12. In the event the judges cannot come to a decision, an independent judge, designated by the President of the Jewish Book Council, will determine the winner.



GUIDELINES

ENTRY RULES

1. **ENTRY FORMS.** Entry forms and seven copies (per category)* of each book nominated must be sent to the address below. Additionally, high resolution photos of each author and book cover must be emailed to njba@jewishbooks.org.

Jewish Book Council
520 8th Ave., 4th Floor
New York, NY 10018
attn: AWARDS

*For submissions to the fiction, book club, and debut fiction categories, 12 copies of the book must be submitted.

Submitted books will not be returned. If the book is deemed ineligible, books and payment will not be returned.

2. **ENTRIES.** All books (or galleys) must be received by **October 4, 2019** with a completed entry form. Only if a book has an **October, November, or December 2019** copyright, the deadline to receive it can be extended to **October 31, 2019**. Any books published in **October 2019** will not be eligible for the 2020 National Jewish Book Awards. No submission will be accepted without an entry form. There is a **\$150*** handling fee for each title submitted, and payment must accompany the entry form. If, for some reason, the fee is not available at the time of submission, the application must indicate “Payment to follow” on the entry form. Payment must be received by **October 31, 2019** or the title will become ineligible. If a selection wins, an additional **five (5) copies**, signed by the author, are required and will be requested by the Jewish Book Council. *An early bird price of **\$140** will be extended to anyone who submits and pays by **August 15, 2019**.

3. **FORMAT.** All books, including e-books, must be submitted in print format.

4. **SELF-PUBLISHED BOOKS.** Self-published books may be submitted.

5. **CATEGORIES.** Attention to category definition is essential. Please see accompanying definitions to identify the appropriate category. On the entry form, the editor of the book should specify one category as most appropriate. A book may be submitted to more than one category: for EACH additional category, **\$60** and **seven (7) more copies of the book*** must be sent. If the judges receive the submission and feel it would fit more appropriately in a different category, they may request that the title be switched. Should the publisher and/or author agree, an additional **seven (7) copies** will be requested at no additional fee. Please note that a book is only eligible to win one category, regardless of the number of categories it is submitted to.*For submissions to the fiction, book club, and debut fiction categories, 12 copies of the book must be submitted. To submit to the Mentorship Award in honor of Carolyn Starman Hessel, please visit <https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/awards/national-jewish-book-awards>.



GUIDELINES

ENTRY RULES, cont'd

6. **OCCASIONAL AWARDS.** Books in these categories will be judged over a span of up to three years. Books must be submitted in their year of publication and will be retained by the designated panel for future evaluation.

7. **EVERETT FAMILY FOUNDATION JEWISH BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD.** All non-fiction books submitted are automatically eligible for the Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award, which is determined by a select committee.

8. **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD.** This category has been created to provide the Jewish Book Council with the flexibility to recognize selection(s) of outstanding merit. A select panel, headed by the Chair of the National Jewish Book Awards, will make this determination. In this case, additional copies of a book may be requested (with no additional fee required) by the panel.

9. **AUTHORS.** Authors must be made aware of, and consent to, the entry of his/her book for the National Jewish Book Awards. We will be contacting the winners directly, so an author email address and phone number are required.

10. **WINNERS.** For winning books, Jewish Book Council will notify the author directly. The individual whose name appears on the submission form will be advised of the judges' decision of both the winners and finalists, and should contact the finalists directly, in January 2020. The publisher is encouraged to promote the finalists and winning titles through all appropriate media. If the author of the work is not living, the award is given to the estate of the author.

11. **PUBLISHERS/AUTHORS.** The submitting party (or a designated representative) of a winning book is responsible for arranging the winning author's attendance at the Awards ceremony to be held on March 17, 2020. Each winning publisher (or author if the submission was made by the author) must agree to contribute \$450 to help defray the cost of the ceremony. This payment entitles the publisher to electronic copies of the National Jewish Book Award seals, which may be printed on the winning book, and two tickets, for the author and a guest, to the gala dinner and ceremony. If there is a co-author or illustrator, that person becomes the guest of the author. Additional tickets to the dinner may be purchased.



CATEGORIES

DEFINITION OF AWARD CATEGORIES

AMERICAN JEWISH STUDIES A non-fiction book about the Jewish experience in North America.

***ANTHOLOGIES & COLLECTIONS** A book of essays, biographies, short stories, or other collected works by one or more authors. The award is given to the editor of the collected works.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR An autobiography, personal memoir or family history. The subject need not be a Jewish person or family but must have significant relevance to the Jewish experience.

BIOGRAPHY This award is for a biography that has significant relevance to the Jewish experience.

BOOK CLUB AWARD An outstanding work of fiction or nonfiction that inspires meaningful conversation about Jewish life, identity, practice, or history and is dedicated to promoting Jewish continuity for the next generation.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE A book on a Jewish theme from infancy to age 11. If the award is given to an illustrated children's book, the award will be shared by the author and illustrator.

CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LIFE & PRACTICE A non-fiction book about current tools and resources for Jewish living. These include, but are not limited to, holiday how-to books and life-cycle books.

DEBUT FICTION An author's first published novel or short-story collection.

EDUCATION & JEWISH IDENTITY A non-fiction work that focuses on theory, history and/or practice of Jewish education and/or identity. Textbooks are not eligible.

FICTION A novel or short-story collection of exemplary literary merit, with Jewish content.

FOOD WRITING & COOKBOOKS A cookbook or work of food writing—including, but not limited to, memoir and history—that explores Jewish identity, history, and culture through a culinary lens.



CATEGORIES

DEFINITION OF AWARD CATEGORIES, cont'd

HISTORY A nonfiction work about the Jewish historical experience. Books focusing primarily on the Holocaust and the American Jewish experience do not belong in this category.

HOLOCAUST A non-fiction book concerning the Holocaust including autobiographies, memoirs, and academic studies.

MENTORSHIP AWARD This award seeks to recognize individuals employed in traditional publishing or working independently as editors, agents, publicists, publishers, literary critics and have exhibited substantial engagement with Jewish authors. The goal of this award is to recognize those who nurture and mentor Jewish authors through the many steps toward publications and beyond.

MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT & EXPERIENCE A non-fiction work addressing Jewish thought and experience.

POETRY A book of verse consisting primarily of poems of Jewish concern.

SEPHARDIC CULTURE A book that explores the traditions and practices unique to Sephardic Jews.

SCHOLARSHIP A non-fiction selection that makes an original contribution to Jewish learning. This includes, but is not limited to, works on Bible, Rabbinics, and Jewish Law.

***VISUAL ARTS** A work of one or more visual artists (painters, weavers, sculptors, photographers, etc.) which includes illustrations and images of Jewish content as a dominant component.

WOMEN'S STUDIES A non-fiction book about women's role in the Jewish experience.

WRITING BASED ON ARCHIVAL MATERIAL A book of modern historical writing published in English based on archival material, including footnotes and bibliography.

***YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE** A book on a Jewish theme for ages 12—18.

* indicates occasional award not presented annually



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2019 National Jewish Book Awards

To: Jewish Book Council
520 8th Ave., 4th Floor
New York, NY 10018
attn: AWARDS

_____ (enter the name of author, editor, or publisher) is submitting the following title(s), published between January 1, 2019–December 31, 2019 for the 2019 NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARDS:

CATEGORIES

American Jewish Studies • *Anthologies & Collections • Autobiography & Memoir • Biography • Book Club • Children’s Literature • Contemporary Jewish Life & Practice • Cookbooks & Food Writing • Debut Fiction • Education & Jewish Identity • Fiction • History • Holocaust • Modern Jewish Thought & Experience • Poetry • Sephardic Culture • Scholarship • *Visual Arts • Women’s Studies • Writing Based on Archival Material • *Young Adult Literature
(*indicates occasional award)

Mentorship application form link is on the website—please do not use the form below to apply for the Mentorship Award.

JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL will notify the winners directly. It is the responsibility of the person named below to notify the authors who are named finalists. Please be certain to list the publisher (and any co-publishers) below, as only this information will be included in all press materials. Please print clearly.

With submission of this completed form, I agree to abide by the rules and stipulations set forth in these 2019 National Jewish Book Awards entry guidelines.

Signature of Respondent: _____
Name of Respondent (please print): _____
Title: _____
Publisher: _____
Street: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
E-Mail: _____

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY October 4, 2019. Seven (7) copies* of each work listed are to accompany this application. Be certain to email a high-resolution photo of the book cover and the author to: NJBA@jewishbooks.org *Twelve (12) copies for fiction, book club, and debut fiction entries.

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM. If the payment is delayed, submit the books with this form with a note explaining that payment will follow. Forward payment with a copy of this form by October 31, 2019 for the book to be eligible.



2019 National Jewish Book Awards Submission Form (Page 2 of 2)

FIRST ENTRY

Title: _____
 Author: _____
 Author's Email Address: _____
 Author's Phone Number: _____
 Publication Month: _____ Publication Year: _____
 First Category (\$150*): _____
 Second Category (\$60): _____
 Third Category (\$60): _____
 Total for book: \$ _____

SECOND ENTRY

Title: _____
 Author: _____
 Author's Email Address: _____
 Author's Phone Number: _____
 Publication Month: _____ Publication Year: _____
 First Category (\$150*): _____
 Second Category (\$60): _____
 Third Category (\$60): _____
 Total for book: \$ _____

THIRD ENTRY

Title: _____
 Author: _____
 Author's Email Address: _____
 Author's Phone Number: _____
 Publication Month: _____ Publication Year: _____
 First Category (\$150*): _____
 Second Category (\$60): _____
 Third Category (\$60): _____
 Total for book: \$ _____

***If submission form and payment is received by August 15, 2019, an early bird fee of \$140 will apply.**

For additional entries, please make a copy of this form.

2019 National Jewish Book Awards Credit Card Authorization Form

Name _____

Name as listed on card _____

Visa Mastercard Amex

CC number _____

Expiration Date _____

Security Code _____

Zip Code of billing address _____

Total _____

Signature _____

This document will be used for Jewish Book Council
billing purposes only and will remain confidential and secure.



SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Please review the following checklist in order to ensure your entry is complete.

- Pages 1 and 2 of this Submission Form have been completed and signed by the publisher (and any co-publishers) or submitting party
- Payment has been included with the entry or it is indicated that payment will follow by October 31, 2019
- High-resolution JPGs of nominated title's cover and author's headshot have been emailed to NJBA@jewishbooks.org
- Seven copies of the nominated book* have been sent for each submitted category (e.g., if a title is submitted into two categories, fourteen copies must be sent to the Jewish Book Council) *Twelve copies for fiction, book club, and debut fiction entries.
- If galleys have been submitted in lieu of finished copies, finished copies will follow when available
- I have read the guidelines for entries in order to ensure that all nominated titles meet the submission guidelines
- I have reviewed the responsibilities of the publisher/author if the nominated title wins a National Jewish Book Award

