



73rd National Jewish Book Awards

Program Book

March 26, 2024

Program

Elisa Spungen Bildner
President, Jewish Book Council

Naomi Firestone-Teeter
CEO, Jewish Book Council

Alison Rose Greenberg and Bess Kalb
Ceremony Hosts

Ruth Madievsky
Winner of the Debut Fiction Goldberg Prize

Joy Greenberg
Co-President, Jewish Book Council

Altie Karper
Winner of the Mentorship Award in Honor of Carolyn Starman Hessel

Benji Lovitt and Joel Chasnoff
Winner of the Education & Jewish Identity Award in Memory of Dorothy Kripke

Carlie Hoffman
Winner of the Poetry Berru Award in Memory of Ruth and Bernie Weinflash

Yariv Inbar
Winner of the Hebrew Fiction in Translation Jane Weitzman Award

Jeremy Eichler
Winner of the Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award
Winner of the History Gerrard and Ella Berman Memorial Award
Winner of the Holocaust in Memory of Ernest W. Michel Award

Presentation of the 73rd National Jewish Book Awards

See pages 5-52 for detailed information on each winning title, including winners remarks

Ceremony Hosts:

Alison Rose Greenberg and Bess Kalb



photo credit: Talitha Kauffman

Alison Rose Greenberg is a screenwriter and the author of *Maybe Once*, *Maybe Twice* and *Bad Luck Bridesmaid*. She lives in Atlanta but is quick to say she was born in New York City, as any nice Jewish girl would be. While attending the University of Southern California, Alison took her first screenwriting class and fell head over heels. A journey from writing led to marketing jobs, before coming full-circle back to her first love. Alison speaks fluent rom-com, lives for 90's WB dramas, cries to Taylor Swift, and is a proud single mom to her two incredible kids, two cats, and one poorly-trained dog.



photo credit: Lucas Foglia Photography

Bess Kalb is an Emmy-nominated comedy writer and the bestselling author of *Nobody Will Tell You This But Me*, a *New York Times* Editor's Choice. She wrote for eight years on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* and has written for the Emmy Awards, the Academy Awards, and the 2020 Democratic National Convention. She is the head writer and executive producer of the WGA Award-nominated *Yearly Departed*, an Amazon Comedy Special, and is currently adapting *Nobody Will Tell You This But Me* into a feature film with Sight Unseen Pictures. She lives with her husband and two children in New York.



Winners



Time's Echo: The Second World War, the Holocaust, and the Music of Remembrance

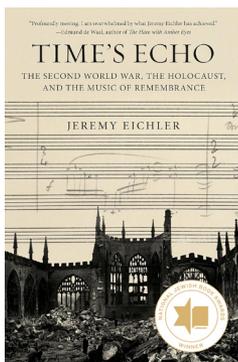
Jeremy Eichler

Alfred A. Knopf

photo credit: Tom Kates

I am deeply honored to be receiving this recognition from the Jewish Book Council. *Time's Echo* is a book about how culture bears witness to history — and about reimagining the power and presence of art in our lives today. As living memory recedes, it explores music's unique ability to serve as a bridge to eras past, one that deepens our sense of understanding, empathy, and felt contact with history. And while its pages summon the tragedies and suffering of previous generations, the book also seeks to reclaim and lift up older traditions of humanism, dreams of dignity and freedom, visions for a just society no less vital for having not yet come to pass. In this sense, every memorial also points to the future. I am extraordinarily grateful to my family and friends for their support, to my editor Jonathan Segal, and to the countless others who contributed to this book's journey.

Jewish Book of the Year
Everett Family Foundation Award



This year's winner of the Everett Family Foundation Book of the Year Award, Jeremy Eichler, not only takes home this year's Book of the Year Award, but also the History and Holocaust awards, a remarkable accomplishment that speaks to the power of his work, *Time's Echo: The Second World War, the Holocaust, and the Music of Remembrance*.

In *Time's Echo*, Eichler masterfully explores the impact of World War II on the classical music community, creating what he calls “the music of remembrance.” This book will transport you onto a journey through music and time, allowing readers to gain deeper knowledge and context for some of the greatest musical pieces of the twentieth century.

Eichler skillfully balances history, music criticism, and memory studies, resulting in an extraordinarily compelling, thoroughly researched, and desperately needed book that adds meaningful insight into the world of classical music and Jewish history.



Altie Karper

I am especially grateful to be receiving the Jewish Book Council's Mentorship Award in Honor of Carolyn Starman Hessel because it gives me the opportunity to publicly express my thanks for decades of JBC support of our Schocken/Penguin Random House authors and their books. From the insightful book reviews on the JBC website, to the JBC Network's facilitation of our authors' appearances at venues across the United States and Canada, to the assistance JBC Book Clubs provides to hundreds of reading groups, to the many book-and-author events that the JBC directly sponsors throughout the year, the Jewish Book Council is without equal in bringing books highlighting all aspects of the Jewish experience to readers who are looking to make these books a part of their lives. My gratitude to the JBC's magnificent professional staff and to its passionately devoted Board of Directors is boundless.

Mentorship Award
in Honor of Carolyn Starman Hessel

Altie Karper has had an extraordinary career in publishing, most recently as editorial director of Schocken for the last twenty-three years, retiring only this past December. Throughout her tenure she has worked with the luminaries of our time: Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Deborah Lipstadt, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, and Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg, and many more. As editorial director of Schocken, Karper led the imprint to 17 National Jewish Book Award winners and finalists. She has given back to the world of Jewish letters beyond her own work through service on the board of Jewish Book Council, providing guidance to strengthen the field and ensure that all Jewish authors and books have a champion to uplift them and ensure their place in the homes of curious readers.

We are so pleased and honored to present this year's Mentorship Award in Honor of Carolyn Starman Hessel to Altie Karper.



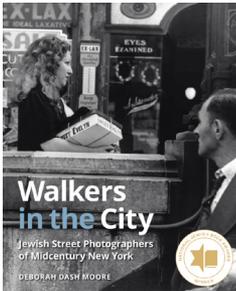
photo credit: Mac Moore

Walkers in the City: Jewish Street Photographers of Midcentury New York

Deborah Dash Moore

Three Hills / Cornell University Press

Walkers in the City: Jewish Street Photographers of Midcentury New York (Three Hills/Cornell University Press) is dedicated to my husband, MacDonald Moore, “partner in life and love.” Mac introduced me to photography. After we married and moved to NYC, he became a walker in the city, developing film in our bathroom and printing in our kitchen. This book owes its genesis to him, and in many ways, it is his book. When one writes a book over the course of many years, it takes many different shapes before the final one. Having lived with these photographers and their photographs, they feel almost like family. I am indebted to their generous invitation to see the city through their eyes.



Deborah Dash Moore's *Walkers in the City: Jewish Street Photographers of Midcentury New York* is a unique and elegant window into Jewish life in Gotham during the mid-twentieth century. With the help of the archives of the New York Photo League, Moore studies a circle of Jewish photographers who used, quite literally, their unique lenses to capture the moments and scenes most important to them. The street photographers set their sights on cityscapes, gender and race dynamics, and, perhaps most importantly, class and labor, to convey the complexities of city living and working.

Moore's book is wonderfully illustrated, and her narrative and analysis complement the many images selected for the volume. Moore tells the stories within the stories, exploring the intentions of the Jewish photographers and the "thousand words" their pictures wished to convey. We are the fortunate beneficiaries of Moore's creative scholarship, better prepared to understand the roles Jews played in transforming New York and to derive meaning from the seemingly mundane streets of Manhattan.



Happily: A Personal History- with Fairy Tales

Sabrina Orah Mark

Random House

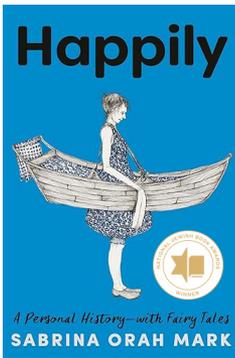
photo credit: Sarah Baugh

I don't know if you've ever held a fairy tale in your hand, but it has this amazing pliability. Try to stretch it from your childhood all the way to where you are standing right now. See? Isn't that amazing?

I have a terrible memory, and I wanted a place (other than my brain) to store the beautiful, strange things my sons so often say to me. Like, "Don't worry mama, I'll teach you how to button your sweater for when you're small again." *Happily* began as a desire to record, and the desire to keep my sons safe. As if writing down everything my sons said, everything that happened around them, could be an armor they could wear. Raising Black Jewish boys in the American South, so far away from where I was raised (emotionally, physically, spiritually), felt like a puzzle that had half the pieces missing. Where were these pieces? Instead of going all the way back to the world I grew up in, back to NY, back in time, where I could and couldn't return – I decided to turn to fairy tales, a place even older than childhood, to keep me company, and guide me. What I discovered was that through the fairy tale I was able to tell stories I had been too shy, or afraid, to tell before. The fairy tale held my hand, and assured me everything I felt had already been felt, is being felt now, and will be felt again.

Happily attempts to reclaim a fairy-tale sense of the world, an ancient imagination. Fairy tales are not simple and quaint, but difficult and painful. I have always been drawn to the underbelly, the cracks, how the spaces between letters are letters, too. We think of this as the imaginary realm, the invisible, the silent. But as the world reveals more and more of its insides – ecologically, spiritually, politically – as we become more fissure than closure, more breadcrumb than loaf, this realm feels more visible than ever.

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



A memoir-in-essays that weaves fairy tales into deeply personal stories about family and social issues, *Happily* by Sabrina Orah Mark is full of mesmerizing prose and deep insights. Mark explores how fairy tales reflect life long after childhood ends.

Having grown up Orthodox Jewish in Brooklyn, the author describes her life as a mother and stepmother in Athens, Georgia, where she raises two Black Jewish sons at a time of rising antisemitism, Covid, and the murder of George Floyd. Mark’s ability to connect fairy tales to difficult contemporary issues is cathartic—she plants the idea that many problems could be solved if only adults immersed their minds in the fantastical: “The reason fairy tales last is that they allow us to gaze at ourselves through a glass that is at once transparent and reflective.”

Jewish themes play a role throughout the book. Mark connects fairy tales to the Passover plagues, the golem, the Holocaust Museum, and her own religious experiences growing up. But many other real-life challenges are explored. These include a loved one’s cancer diagnosis, the pursuit of an unattainable job, and the challenges of being her husband’s third spouse—all of which are accompanied by a fairy tale that serves as a mirror.

New life is breathed into Hansel and Gretel, Peter Pan, Rapunzel, and Pinocchio, among others, in this emotionally visceral and wildly imaginative gem of a book. *Happily* is a testament to Sabrina Orah Mark’s gift not only as a writer, but also as a truth-teller in an age in which surrealism just might help us see the world more clearly.



Bruno Schulz: An Artist, a Murder, and the Hijacking of History

Benjamin Balint

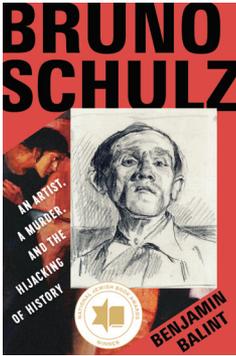
W. W. Norton & Company

photo credit: courtesy of the author

“If Bruno Schulz had been allowed to live out his life,” said Isaac Bashevis Singer, “he might have given us untold treasures, but what he did in his short life was enough to make him one of the most remarkable writers who ever lived.” I intended with this book to open a portal into the haunted life of this virtuoso of language and image. Between Bruno Schulz and us, a history of organized forgetting has intervened. By summoning his milieu at a crossroads of Jewish and Polish culture, and by recovering his utterly individual idioms and imagery, I hope the book will stand as an act of belated restitution, as an attempt to restore the obliterated lines of continuity between him and us.

My profound thanks to the Jewish Book Council for this recognition, and to John Glusman, my editor at W. W. Norton.

Biography
In Memory of Sara Berenson Stone



In his gripping biography of the essential writer and artist Bruno Schulz, author Benjamin Balint takes readers on a journey through Schulz's kaleidoscopic life. As the world shifted around Schulz, his commitment to being a dreamer and instigator never faltered—on the contrary, it motivated him to create, inspire, and ultimately elevate the stories of his time. Balint does a masterful job of placing Schulz in the canon of Jewish authors while also crafting a narrative that makes the reclamation of Schulz's work both exhilarating and insightful.



The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store

James McBride

Penguin Random House

photo credit: Chia Messina

Dear Friends at the National Jewish Book Awards,

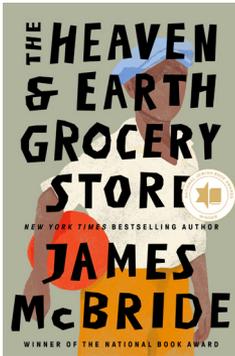
I know there are hundreds of submissions, which makes these awards extra special. I accept them with giant appreciation, and I am sorry I can't make it tonight.

There's a Yiddish expression that goes something like this: *A nar vast men nisht ken halbet arbet*. It means, I'm told, "Never show a fool half-finished work." My first book, *The Color of Water*, about my mother, was a half-finished work in my mind. I wanted my grandmother, who endured every bit of the difficulties Jewish women in this country faced in the 20th century, to have a full airing. I wanted people to see the depth, courage, kindness, joy, and fortitude that she – and so many Jewish women like her – brought to this country. These women are not part of the American mythology that passes as history. They are not gunfighting western heroes, or female heroines in *The Little House on The Prairie*. History has swallowed them whole. But they are alive to me, as I hope they are to you.

Although I am not there, please know that I am honored. I want to be a soldier in the right kind of army. The army that heals the world. What a privilege it is to serve.

With gratitude,
James McBride

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



The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store begins with a mystery—a body discovered in a well, found during the construction of a new housing project. The year is 1972, and police go to the only remaining Jew in town to ask what he knows about the body, which was found with a mezuzah. Not able to learn anything from old Malachi, the police leave, promising to return when they have more evidence. But the next day, a hurricane destroys four counties around Pottstown, PA, including Chicken Hill, the neighborhood where this lyrically written, heart-wrenching, and unforgettable story takes place.

The author brings us back in time, forty-seven years before the hurricane, to Chicken Hill, a neighborhood made up of poor Black Americans and Jewish immigrants struggling to get by. Chona and Moshe are central to the story and to Chicken Hill. Chona is the proprietor of the Heaven and Earth Grocery Store, which serves the diverse community, most of whom buy on credit. Moshe owns the successful All American Dance Hall and Theater, which highlights Klezmer acts and African American bands. The integration is an affront to the white Christian residents of Pottstown, one for which Moshe is repeatedly fined. Relationships between Chicken Hill neighbors become stronger through shared challenges, and they come together to try to save a young deaf orphan, Dodo, who is wrongfully institutionalized—another beautifully written character who finds himself in a seemingly impossible situation.

This novel has it all: a unique and captivating storyline with many subplots, interesting and well-developed characters, and a universal message of “love and community—heaven and earth.”



Two New Years

Richard Ho,
Lynn Scurfield, illus.

Chronicle Books



photo credit: Wing Ho

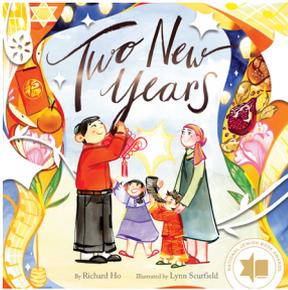
Richard Ho, author:

Two New Years is my fourth published book, but my first Jewish one. That it has been so warmly received is a blessing and an honor—and a validation not just of my writing, but of my Jewish identity. As a convert who joined the tribe later in life, I am forever humbled and inspired by the welcoming acceptance and unconditional love from my fellow Jews. It makes me want to work that much harder to be a worthy ambassador of the Jewish people and Jewish stories.

My deepest thanks to Jewish Book Council for this incredible recognition. And heartfelt thanks to my partners in bringing *Two New Years* to life: illustrator Lynn Scurfield, editor Naomi Kirsten and the entire publishing team at Chronicle Books, acquiring editor Feather Flores, and my agent Emily Mitchell. And most importantly, thank you to my family for inspiring me to write a story that celebrates our mixed identity. I hope this book can be a mirror for readers of all backgrounds (and all combinations of backgrounds!) and encourages them to embrace every aspect of their identity, while recognizing that there is so much that unites us all.

Lynn Scurfield, illustrator:

Many thanks goes out to my family, the team over at Chronicle Books, and everyone at the Jewish Book Council. I hope everyone enjoys reading *Two New Years* and can share their celebrations with the people they love the most.



Two New Years brilliantly realizes the goal of the picture book: to be the perfect synthesis of text and image. Richard Ho's spare story explores his heritage through the celebration of the Jewish New Year and the Lunar New Year. The customs of Rosh Hashanah in the fall and the Lunar New Year in the spring share many similarities, from the symbolism of foods, to the emphasis on family and community, to themes of renewal and wishes for new blessings. The nuclear family presented here is Orthodox, with a tichel (scarf)-wearing mom and a kippah-wearing dad and son. Lynn Scurfield's beautiful ink and watercolor illustrations favor reds, golds, and greens that make the reader want to jump into the page. Several spreads have gorgeous papercut borders.

Ho provides a comprehensive visual glossary that explains Jewish and Chinese terms. Diverse Jewish representation is most welcome in our world today, where many Jews identify with more than one culture. *Two New Years* is a gift to all!



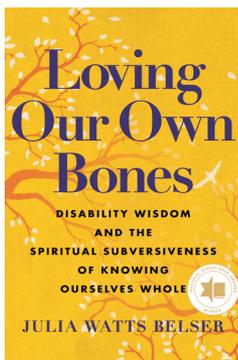
Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole

Julia Watts Belser

Beacon Press

photo credit: Josh Johnson

I'm deeply honored to receive the National Jewish Book Award for *Loving Our Own Bones*, a radical rethinking of disability in Jewish texts and contemporary culture that challenges both the political and the religious marginalization of disabled people. For centuries, traditional commentators have figured disability in negative terms: as a symbol of suffering, a metaphor for spiritual incapacity, or a challenge to be overcome. I tell a very different story. As a writer, a rabbi, and a scholar, I ground my work in the conviction that disability wisdom can crack open powerful new perspectives on spiritual life. At its heart, the book is a love letter to the disability community, one that honors the potent work we do to push back against normativity, to let go of shame and silence, and to claim each other's lives as sacred. But I'm also convinced that disability wisdom can be transformative for all people, that it can offer all of us a powerful invitation to embrace the vibrant complexity of our own bodies and minds—and build a world where all of us can thrive.



In *Loving Our Own Bones*, rabbi, scholar, and activist Julia Watts Belser draws on her own experience with disability to offer a powerful new reading of the Jewish tradition. Her chapter on Moses’s reluctance to serve as a prophet because of his speech impediment is particularly moving. Here, Belser argues that Moses’ disability is part of God’s plan for him and for the Israelites, thus affirming his place as a leader. In this light, his staff can now be seen as an assistive device.

Despite its serious moments, the book remains positive and forward-looking. Belser’s intimate, direct tone opens up new avenues for spiritual exploration. Disability — which, as the author notes, will touch nearly everyone at some point — becomes an opportunity for those who are willing to appreciate the unique perspective it brings.



All-Night Pharmacy

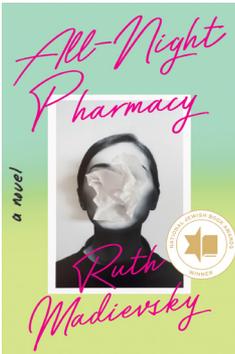
Ruth Madievsky

Catapult

photo credit: Adam F. Phillips

I'm stunned and honored to accept the Goldberg Prize for Debut Fiction. *All-Night Pharmacy* explores, among other things, how Soviet terror and state-sanctioned antisemitism affects those who are several generations removed. I'm grateful to the ancestors whose stories I tried to do justice to. I have endless gratitude for my family—for their sacrifices, their support, and their boundless love. This would all be a brilliant daydream if it weren't for my agent, Mina Hamedi; my editor, Alicia Kroell; and my incredible publishing team at Catapult. Thank you to the Jewish Book Council for recognizing the novel I spent 8 years on. And to you, dear reader, for paying attention to my diasporic drama queens.

Debut Fiction
Goldberg Prize



With prose that alternates between supercharged, vernacular, and almost operatic, Ruth Madievsky's *All-Night Pharmacy* takes our idea of what a Jewish novel can be and stretches it like taffy. Madievsky's unnamed narrator cuts her path across thickets of generational trauma, toxic family relationships, and perhaps the most truthfully rendered and unnervingly fierce desire in recent fiction. But there's morality here, too: this is a character who wants to be a good person. The book's also hilarious—hilarious, heartbreaking, and wise.



Israel 201: Your Next-Level Guide to the Magic, Mystery, and Chaos of Life in the Holy Land

Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt

Gefen Publishing House

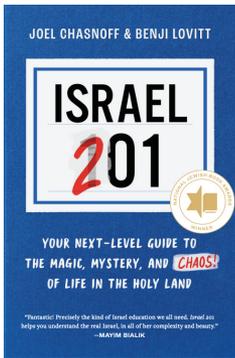
photo credit: Yuval Tchelet

We are honored and humbled to win the National Jewish Book Award in the category of Education and Jewish Identity. With traditional Israel education focused on politics and war, we wanted to convey just some of what makes the world's one Jewish state such a magical, unique, and yes, maddening, place. While the classic "Israel 101" approach (borders, maps, and Partition Plans) is critical in establishing and maintaining a deep and meaningful relationship with Israel, we are committed to teaching the "201": the cultural differences, stories, tidbits, and joys and oys of Israeli life that remind readers of why we fell in love with this country in the first place.

The writing process not only rekindled this love, it strengthened it. The true magic of Israel is its people, and we met and interviewed the very best, from Olympic champions to big-hearted medical clowns, and from Druze high school students to everyone who strives to improve this national project.

We thank the Jewish Book Council and everyone who supported us along the way. To those who have yet to begin your Israel journey, it's never too late to start. Take your first step with "Israel 201" as your guide.

Education and Jewish Identity
In Memory of Dorothy Kripke



In *Israel 201*, coauthors Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt convey their love for Israel in a way that is equal parts whimsical, serious, and piercing. The authors don't shy away from the complexities of Israel. They offer their thoughts on such topics as how Israelis are different from other Jews, and why Israeli society is so beloved and so bewildering at the same time.

While this volume does not set out to be a comprehensive study of Israel, it is very well researched. For anyone seeking to understand what makes Israelis unique, *Israel 201* provides the authors' personal view of the country's idiosyncrasies, showing how its history created the circumstances and forces that produced a distinctive society.

This easily digestible book can serve as a guide for a number of educational programs but can also be enjoyed by general readers. It captures the nature and spirit of Israel's people and celebrates them—something all readers, especially Jewish educators, will appreciate during these trying times.



The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store

James McBride

Penguin Random House

photo credit: Chia Messina

Dear Friends at the National Jewish Book Awards,

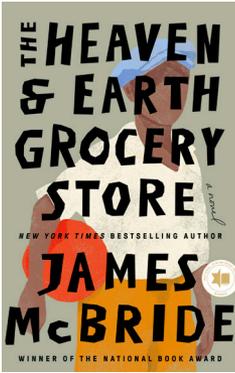
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Although I am not there, please know that I am honored. I want to be a soldier in the right kind of army. The army that heals the world. What a privilege it is to serve.

With gratitude,
James McBride

Fiction
JJ Greenberg Memorial Award



In a sprawling and beautifully written tale suffused with *tikkun olam*, James McBride pries opens our hearts bit by bit with each character he introduces. It's 1925 in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and the Jewish and Black communities share an area of town known as Chicken Hill. There's both kindness and friction between these groups, but their common enemy—the people who run the town—brings them together.

McBride creates myths and folkloric heroes over the course of a novel that contains every imaginable human emotion. His parade of characters might have come to life out of a Marc Chagall or Romare Bearden painting. There is great love and sorrow as the town changes during a period of eleven years. The novel begins with a mystery and ends with the solution, but that frame offers so much more. We learn about love from Moshe Ludlow and his wife, Chona—the beating heart of the novel—as well as from Addie and Nate, who work for them, and from a beautiful deaf boy named Dodo. The entire cast of characters shows us how we can live life to the fullest, with humor and wisdom, no matter the pain of the past or the challenges of the present.

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store is a joy to read, a gem of a book that will stand the test of time.



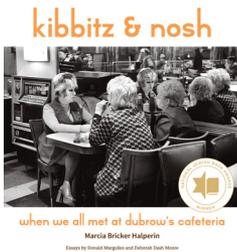
Kibbitz & Nosh: When We All Met at Dubrow's Cafeteria

Marcia Bricker Halperin

Cornell University Press

photo credit: Phil O'Brien

I would like to acknowledge the two outstanding essayists who graciously agreed to write introductory essays for my photographs. Donald Margulies, the Pulitzer-prize winning playwright, traveled back through his Brooklyn memories and brought an emotional gravitas. Deborah Dash Moore, the esteemed professor and writer, explored the historical role of the cafeteria and has given photography a major place in the study of 20th Century Jewish American history. I am still amazed I was able to convince a distinguished academic press to give my book a Yiddish title. Enjoy your kibbitzing and noshing this evening!



Dubrow's Cafeteria was as much a social club as it was an eatery for much of its existence, from the Great Depression to the mid-eighties, and Marcia Bricker Halperin managed to capture the spirit of the New York institution through her portraits and photography. Yet *Kibbitz & Nosh*—which features her intimate and arresting photos of Dubrow's, both its Brooklyn and Manhattan locations, as well as its patrons—sat on a shelf for nearly fifty years. Fortunately, the author revisited and curated the negatives, effectively transporting the reader back to a moment in twentieth-century New York City.

While photographs are at the center of this book, the work transcends the photo essay genre, deftly incorporating essays by celebrated cultural and academic voices—Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Donald Margulies and celebrated historian Deborah Dash Moore—to provide context for what made the cafeteria so important to New York, the Jewish community, and American Jewish history at large. The book serves as a rich document for future academics and storytellers looking to understand the daily life of common New Yorkers and the centrality of “third spaces” to community and culinary culture, and it does so in a one-of-a-kind visual manner befitting the significance of such an institution.



Operation Bethlehem

Yariv Inbar, Dalit Shmueli, trans.

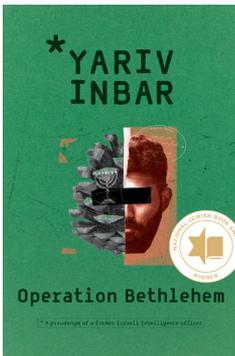
Genera Ventures, Ltd.

photo credit: Ofek Photographers

This book is dedicated to the brave secret heroes of Israel. These are the men and women who serve beyond the lines, often lonely and unknown but always humble and, most importantly, brave. They are armed only with civilian clothes, sharp senses, wise words, and rare courage.

On October 7th, I was drafted for reserve duty in the IDF to serve my country and people in one of the most challenging wars we have faced. I had to put my life on hold for months, but this award is a moment of light in these difficult weeks. If this book sparks curiosity among young Jews about our beloved country, then that will be my reward.

The soul of this book is Israeli, and it was originally written in Hebrew, a language with thousands of years of history, heritage, and memory. This language has a distinctive tone and sounds that are as much a part of the landscape of the Holy Land as its physical features. I am incredibly grateful to the translator, Dalit Shmueli, who created a version that remained faithful to the original with great sensitivity and professionalism.



Our protagonist, Daniel, has somehow lost his way, both professionally and personally, and this story pulls us in quickly as he is driven to seek redemption. Written under a nom de plume by an author with deep insight into the Mossad, *Operation Bethlehem* travels with Daniel as he pursues a cautious hero's journey to uncover some meaningful secrets.

Daniel begins work as a volunteer at a psychiatric hospital in Bethlehem, and nurtures new relationships with the diverse people he meets. This riveting tale of espionage is complicated by the very human contours of Daniel's life. The slow gathering information builds to a page-turning denouement.

Operation Bethlehem leaves readers with intimate insights about the struggle between would-be terrorists and the military operatives who strive to keep Israel safe. The author includes captivating details about daily life in this metropolis in the West Bank, including vivid descriptions of border crossings and family and religious rituals.

Even if you think spy novels aren't for you, this book will pull you in. You won't regret a moment of being immersed in the exhilarating world of *Operation Bethlehem*.



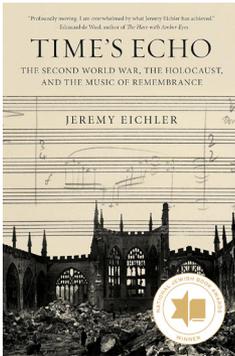
Time's Echo: The Second World War, the Holocaust, and the Music of Remembrance

Jeremy Eichler

Alfred A. Knopf

photo credit: Tom Kates

I am deeply honored to be receiving this recognition from the Jewish Book Council. *Time's Echo* is a book about how culture bears witness to history — and about reimagining the power and presence of art in our lives today. As living memory recedes, it explores music's unique ability to serve as a bridge to eras past, one that deepens our sense of understanding, empathy, and felt contact with history. And while its pages summon the tragedies and suffering of previous generations, the book also seeks to reclaim and lift up older traditions of humanism, dreams of dignity and freedom, visions for a just society no less vital for having not yet come to pass. In this sense, every memorial also points to the future. I am extraordinarily grateful to my family and friends for their support, to my editor Jonathan Segal, and to the countless others who contributed to this book's journey.



In beautiful, haunting prose, *Time's Echo* pays homage to the ways in which some of the twentieth century's most celebrated composers memorialized the Holocaust and the Second World War in their music. The work centers on songs composed by Richard Strauss, Arnold Schoenberg, Dmitri Shostakovich, and Benjamin Britten, and it uses these compositions to shed light on postwar Europe and America.

Jeremy Eichler, the chief classical music critic of *The Boston Globe*, shows how the experiences of the war—and particularly Jewish experiences of it—shaped classical music in the immediate postwar era. Eichler, who also holds a Ph.D. in European history, intricately weaves history with music criticism and draws inspiration from sources as diverse as music theory, memory studies, European historiography, and the writings of W. G. Sebald. The melding of German and Jewish culture, epitomized by Felix Mendelssohn, and the profound break brought about by Nazism, become disturbingly audible in Eichler's account. His insight into the struggle of Jews and non-Jews alike to come to terms with the pain and trauma of catastrophe will encourage readers to “listen to the past through music's ears.”



Time's Echo: The Second World War, the Holocaust, and the Music of Remembrance

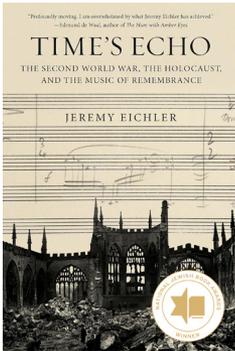
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Holocaust
In Memory of Ernest W. Michel



Jeremy Eichler’s riveting and magisterial new book, *Time’s Echo*, details how the Holocaust has been memorialized in monuments, museums, art, architecture, national narratives, and even fiction and poetry—and it’s crucial for understanding both the events of the Holocaust and how we make sense of them today. Until now, no one had plumbed the depths of what Eichler calls “the music of remembrance.” Nor had anyone discussed how music preserved Holocaust memory in ways that no other artistic medium could. Based on impeccable historical and musicological research, Eichler tells the origin stories of towering works by Richard Strauss, Arnold Schoenberg, Dmitri Shostakovich, and Benjamin Britten, all of which reflect these composers’ lived experiences during World War II and the Holocaust. They are what Eichler calls “vital repositories of cultural memory, [where] the living past still resides.”

In lyrical, clear-eyed prose, Eichler guides us deep into the times, spaces, and performances of Shostakovich’s “Babi Yar Symphony,” Schoenberg’s “A Survivor from Warsaw,” Strauss’s “In Memoriam,” and Britten’s “War Requiem.” With “the ears of a critic and the tools of a historian,” Eichler proposes a profoundly new and original way of “hearing history”—that is, by “listening with an understanding of music as time’s echo.” This is cultural history at its most profound and moving. Like the music at its heart, this book also “flows from the mysterious capacity to bridge emotion and intellect.” It is a groundbreaking achievement in memorial history.



The Ghost Tattoo

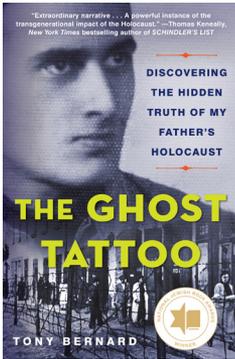
Tony Bernard

Citadel Press / Kensington Books

photo credit: Mark Gordon, Corporate Photography, Sydney

Like many other children of a Holocaust survivor, I started writing this book as a way of recording my father's Holocaust story for family and friends. It was only after comments by Professor Kwiet, the historian at the Sydney Jewish Museum, that I started to realise that my father's story was notable. Professor Kwiet encouraged me to find evidence in support of my father's story and in doing so I gained a visceral understanding of the horrors my father and others witnessed and experienced in the ghettos and camps of the Holocaust. I also became aware of his pivotal role as a witness in a war crimes trial, convicting a Nazi murderer of his crime. In the writing of this book I have gained a deeper knowledge and understanding of my father and am very proud to be able to honour his wish to have his story told.

Holocaust Memoir
In Memory of Dr. Charles and Ethel Weitzman



The Ghost Tattoo by Tony Bernard is a fascinating, moving, and highly engaging memoir by a son about his father, who kept secret for many years his most difficult experiences of the Holocaust.

This book is based on the extensive written and oral testimony of Tony's father, Henry, who survived Auschwitz and other camps and eventually settled in Sydney, Australia and became a beloved physician. The story evolves in the way the author's understanding of his father's experience evolved: slowly, with clues here and there. We come to discover, as Tony did after many years and several visits to Poland with his father and uncle, his father's hidden truth: that he was a member of the Jewish Order Service in his Polish hometown—the Jewish Police—and, as such, was faced every day with choiceless choices. Henry was clearly a victim of these circumstances, but he carried guilt over his role for a lifetime, affecting his marriages and children.

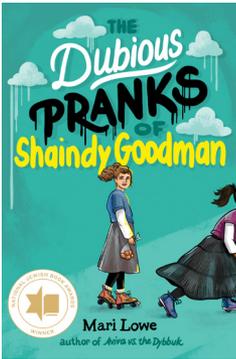
This rarely explored aspect of the Holocaust and its aftermath offers readers a glimpse into the psyche of a Jew forced into the role of subjugating his own neighbors. The author also explores the ramifications of such dilemmas and their painful, lifelong effects on both survivor and family.



The Dubious Pranks of Shaindy Goodman

Mari Lowe

Levine Querido



With *The Dubious Pranks of Shaindy Goodman*, author Mari Lowe taps into the hopes, dreams, and anxieties of preteen girls with nerve-jangling precision. Set in a close-knit Orthodox community during the High Holy Days, the book offers a glimpse into an underrepresented community, setting, and culture. It takes a lot of work to make characters with such idiosyncratic lives feel so wonderfully ordinary, but that’s exactly what Lowe does with shy Shaindy and her maybe-bestie Gayil. She channels the universal experience of a complicated childhood friendship in ways that are almost painfully relatable.

Themes of teshuvah appear throughout the book, particularly in the girls’ Yom Kippur projects, and the depiction of the characters’ lived experiences feels authentic and natural. Tidy endings don’t come easy—there are no shortcuts for Shaindy as she navigates a complicated friendship, pranks gone too far, and her obligation to the people around her. *The Dubious Pranks of Shaindy Goodman* isn’t always a comfortable read, but it captures the complexity of tweenage girlhood in a way that feels vital.



The Eleventh Plague: Jews and Pandemics from the Bible to COVID-19

Jeremy Brown

Oxford University Press

The Eleventh Plague was written during those strange and terrible COVID days. Yet somehow, it was a welcome distraction to spend the time researching and writing on this previously overlooked history of the Jewish people. My hope is that it will be widely read because the stories it tells are heroic ones, in which Jews from Moses to the founders of the State of Israel battled the everyday reality of pandemics, the likes of which today we cannot imagine. These pandemics were so common that they became a part of the background noise of life, as ubiquitous and as unpredictable as the weather.

I discovered that only through an understanding of the Jewish encounter with pandemics can we explain the evolution of many aspects of Jewish liturgy, theology, communal practice and halachic rulings. This story of that encounter is remarkably rich, and I hope others will continue this exploration.

I would also like to pay a special tribute to one of the finalists in this category, Dr. Erica Brown. Her recent book *Ecclesiastes and the Search for Meaning* is remarkable, and her generosity as a critical reader of my work is unmatched. Thank you, Erica, my wife for thirty-six years. To me, you are always gold.

JEREMY BROWN

THE
ELEVENTH
PLAGUE

Jews and Pandemics
From the Bible
to Covid-19



Written in the shadow of COVID-19, *The Eleventh Plague* offers a much-needed historical perspective on pandemics and the Jewish community. Jeremy Brown, a physician and historian of science and medicine, takes the reader on an expansive journey through this history, from the Exodus story of the ten plagues, to outbreaks of smallpox and the Black Death in medieval Europe, to influenza and COVID-19 in more modern times. Well-researched yet accessible, Brown's book helps the reader understand the specific ways in which rabbis and other leaders of Jewish thought responded to moments of "plague" and how Jewish theology developed in light of these events. Equally importantly, Brown notes how the Jewish community itself has been affected not only by pandemics and plagues, but also by the anti-Jewish blame that often accompanies these crises.

The Eleventh Plague serves as a magnificent, deeply informative examination of the impact of plagues and pandemics on Jews and Judaism throughout history. In that way, it provides important context for all who are still struggling to understand the impact of our most recent pandemic.



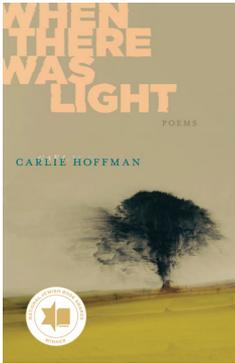
When There Was Light

Carlie Hoffman

Four Way Books

photo credit: Johnny Steers

Poetry
Berru Award in Memory of Ruth and
Bernie Weinflash



Carlie Hoffman's *When There Was Light* shows a mastery of thinking through language. The texture, subtlety, and beauty of these poems are brought together by questions of family, identity, loss, and shame. A family emigration from Germany to a farm in Upstate New York shows the consequences of seeking the American Dream through assimilation and sacrifice. Hoffman thinks in poetry, and her metaphors give attention to a space in which differences are hard to make out.

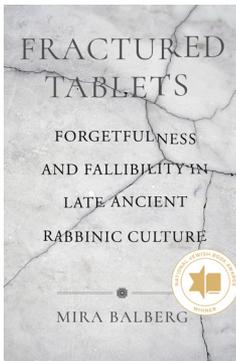
As part of an unseen community, Hoffman moves in and out of fixed definitions. Her poems demonstrate her feeling of outsidership in her body. She blends feminism with mysticism, as in "Kabbalah for Last November": "You have always been the woman in the flooding / room, refusing to move out of the way." She also wonders about intergenerational trauma, as in "Yahrzeit in December": "... tracing back the gene / of neuroticism that gorges / on a mind." She goes deep into herself, to be in an in-between place, an exile. *When There Was Light* adds to Jewish poetics not only in its subject matter, but also in its system of thought: an area of doubts, wishes, and possibilities.



Fractured Tablets: Forgetfulness and Fallibility in Late Ancient Rabbinic Culture

Mira Balberg

University of California Press



Jewish experience is shaped by both personal and cultural memory. The Torah requires Jews to remember the Exodus from Egypt, the revelation at Sinai, the Sabbath, and even the Torah itself. Meticulous observance requires sharp memory, self awareness, and attention to detail. As such, memory lapses often result in transgression and failure.

The rabbis of antiquity saw it differently. In her latest book, Mira Balberg, Professor of Jewish History and Endowed Chair in Ancient Civilization at the University of California, San Diego, shows how the early rabbis normalized forgetfulness, building it into the fabric of committed Jewish practice. Through a wide-ranging and meticulous examination of the Tannaitic corpus, Balberg reveals the rabbis' preoccupation with memory lapses, a project through which they sought to create an "inclusive elite." Balberg's close reading of the many cases of forgotten laws or details demonstrates that, for these rabbis, human fallibility is a part of a life of halachic devotion, affecting even the greatest of leaders. The rabbis' vision for a life of Torah included hard work and high standards, as well as forgetfulness and fallibility.

As we have come to expect, Balberg breathes life into even the most obscure and culturally distant sections of the Mishnah. Innovative and clearly written, *Fractured Tablets* offers deep insight into and a penetrating analysis of the Tannaitic project.



Kantika

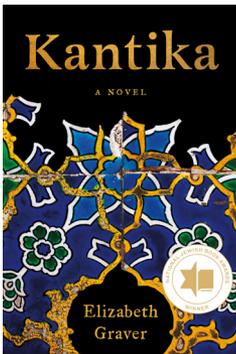
Elizabeth Graver

Metropolitan Books

photo credit: Adrianne Mathiowetz

When I received the wonderful news that *Kantika* had won the Mimi S. Frank Award in Memory of Becky Levy, I was stopped short by the fact that Becky Levy shares a name with my grandmother, Rebecca née Cohen Baruch Levy—the inspiration for and central subject of my novel. Quickly, though, my surprise turned to something else, an of-courseness, as in of course they share a name, just as of course I stumbled, in my research, on a 1929 film containing unattributed footage of my family, and of course I was welcomed with open arms by the many people I asked (often out of the blue) for help—relatives and scholars, residents of Istanbul’s Oryom Old Age Home, musicians, Ladino speakers, fellow writers, my editor, Riva Hocherman, who saw the soul of this story and drew it out. While the Sephardic world I encountered contains plenty of hardship and doors slammed shut, it is also notable for being full of hopeful crossings—geographic, linguistic, cultural, religious—and for brimming with stories and song. The journey I took to write *Kantika* was full of generous people across several continents. Mersi mucho to everyone who welcomed me, and to the Jewish Book Council for this award.





Through a lyrical blend of family history and fiction, *Kantika* brings to life a multigenerational Sephardic family and their perpetual search for home. The title references the Ladino (or Judeo-Spanish) word for “song”—and indeed, Elizabeth Graver’s lyrical prose tells a beautiful tale that was inspired by the journey of her headstrong grandmother, Rebecca Cohen. Drawing on an interview with her grandmother that she recorded when she was twenty-one, as well as travels to the places where Rebecca lived and careful research into Sephardic folklore, Graver meditates deeply on modern Sephardic history and culture.

What is especially significant and joyful is that this history and culture are shown through the eyes of a resilient Sephardic woman who refused to bend to the expectations of her society. We see Rebecca as a daughter, a wife, a mother, a hard-working seamstress, and a stepmother who rises to the challenge of caring for and giving courage to her disabled stepdaughter so that she will spread her wings. Rebecca is also a singer, and in her golden years she sings in Spanish, Hebrew, and Ladino. She sings the *kantikas* of her history into the last days of her life. With interpretive readings of old family photos marking the start of each chapter, this acclaimed novel both educates readers about the heritage of the Sephardim and lifts our spirits with its hopeful message about human interconnectedness.



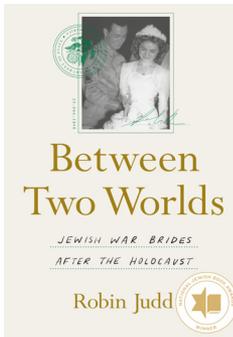
Between Two Worlds: Jewish War Brides After the Holocaust

Robin Judd

University of North Carolina Press

photo credit: David Bernstein

I am grateful for the histories, stories, and pieces of advice that I received from the Holocaust survivors, World War II veterans, ARC staff, and family members who opened their hearts and homes to me. Since publishing *Between Two Worlds*, I have heard from several individuals touched by the marriages between survivors and Allied military personnel. These emails, phone conversations, and in-person encounters have meant so much to me, reinforcing a hunch that stayed with me during the research and writing process, namely that the Jewish war bride phenomenon had — and would continue to have — a long-lasting influence on thousands. My deep thanks to the Jewish Book Council, the dozens of archivists and scholars to whom I turned for assistance, my friends and colleagues, and family.



We all know snippets of the war-bride stories—the gown of silky, white US Army parachute nylon, handsewn by the orphaned bride for her DP camp wedding; or the famous scene of Gerda Klein, whose human dignity and will to live were restored when Kurt, an American rescuer (and, later, her husband) held open a door in Auschwitz for her.

But there is so much more to know. Each war-bride romance confronted challenges: onerous immigration laws, army rules about soldiers marrying “European” civilians, religious restrictions imposed on marriage, language barriers, and adjustment to a new life in an unfamiliar place.

Considering what an important part of the larger Holocaust story this is, it’s surprising that no one has undertaken this project until now. Consequently, there is little systematic or comprehensive literature on which to draw. Additionally, the time lag created its own problems—the plasticity of memory can lead to a skewed recollection of earlier times.

Professor Robin Judd addresses these matters in many different ways. For one, she begins by describing a wide range of survivors—refugee prisoners, camp inmates, hidden Jews, and displaced persons. She conducts independent interviews, tracking people down and compiling extensive logs to fill out the record. And to prevent the natural transformation of memory from undermining the accuracy of her subjects’ testimonies, she cross-checks everything—contemporary texts, personal memoirs, artifacts, and more.

Judd has recovered the authentic, unheard voices of a neglected population whose accounts of their experiences would otherwise have been lost to history. From her research, the reader draws an inspiring message: that most survivors chose life. They didn’t succumb to victimhood but rather created constructive lives with new families, in new countries, under new conditions—even as they faced daunting obstacles.

Writing with discipline and restraint, Judd offers portraits of bravery, not in military exploits or derring-do but in the challenges of daily life. Her book both offers accurate historical insight and attests to the resilience of human beings after suffering and setbacks.



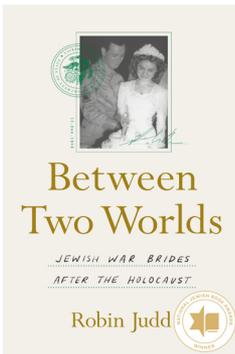
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In *Between Two Worlds*, Robin Judd examines the postwar experiences of Holocaust survivor “war brides” and their American Jewish soldier husbands. Her writing is an intricately layered, meticulously researched history that’s threaded with deep sensitivity and superb narration. Utilizing sources from nearly three dozen archives in the US, Canada, England, and Israel, Judd tells a story of postwar love, courtship, grief, loss, and recovery—all against a backdrop of encounters with the American military, immigration policies, wartime trauma, postwar reconstruction, and resettlement in America.

Judd’s painstaking approach to archival research leaves almost no stone unturned. Incorporating documentation, oral history, press accounts, memoirs, and more, Judd crafts an innovative, path-breaking history of the postwar lives of the Jewish war brides and their families. By weaving together these touching stories and her reconstruction of the postwar world, Judd explores critical themes of “agency, strategy, religious authority, and familial rebuilding, as well as loss, exclusion, and restrictions.” *Between Two Worlds* represents excellent historical writing at its best, combining conscientious research with polished prose.



The Blood Years

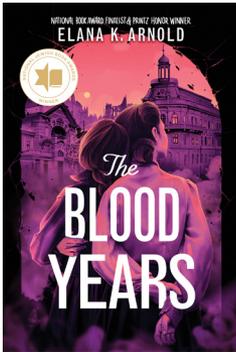
Elana K. Arnold

Norton Young Readers

photo credit: Kristyn Stroble.

The bones of *The Blood Years* are my grandmother's; she survived the Holocaust in Czernowitz, Romania during her childhood and teenage years. It is my most deeply Jewish book—not only because it is set during this terrible time, but also because it wrestles with questions and ideas in a way that feels deeply Jewish, questions such as: How does one remain human when the world ceases to recognize your humanity? What is the intersection between the concepts of God and love? To whom do we owe our loyalty? When is it okay to leave those who mean the most to us? And—how can I bear witness to the humanity of others, when I myself feel full of despair?

To have this book recognized as a National Jewish Book Award winner is deeply gratifying. I know that if my grandmother Frieda were here, she would be verklempt. To accept this award in the company of my three siblings and this community of Jewish writers and readers is a highlight of my life.



In the first chapter, Rieke’s older sister, Astra, promises her that she’ll never fall in love. After all, love didn’t work out so well for their womanizing father and their withdrawn mother. The two girls were left to take care of each other with the help of their beloved grandfather. Rieke cherishes the special relationship she has with her beautiful but mercurial sister, and doesn’t want to share her. But as Nazi influence spreads over their Romanian home, Astra does fall in love, setting off a touching coming-of-age story.

Arnold’s *The Blood Years* shines in particular in its moving and often painful portrayal of sisterhood. Rieke grows up in the shadow of her sister; and both the fierce love she feels for Astra, and the heartbreak Rieke feels at her sister’s betrayals, are poignant in their complexity. Arnold brilliantly portrays these conflicting feelings, which capture the nuances of family and adolescence.

The novel is also fascinating and instructive in its depiction of the Second World War and the Holocaust. It centers the then-Romanian city of Czernowitz, a part of Europe that is not often seen in Holocaust narratives. Based on the experiences of the author’s grandmother, *The Blood Years* is at once a well-researched story of history and an artfully written young adult novel.

Named Awards

Naming an award is a fitting way to honor a special person or remember a loved one. Thank you to all of the individuals and foundations that have supported the National Jewish Book Awards and Jewish Book Council programming and resources.

Jewish Book of The Year Award: Everett Family Foundation Award

Endowed by the Everett family in 2003, this prestigious award honors the best nonfiction book of the year.

American Jewish Studies: 350 Award

The Celebrate 350 Committee commemorated the 350 years of Jewish life in America and conducted a year-long series of celebrations. This award provides the opportunity to remember the event and honor books that will contribute to the next major milestone.

Autobiography and Memoir: The Krauss Family Award in Memory of Simon & Shulamith (Sofi) Goldberg

This award was dedicated to the memory of Simon and Sofi Goldberg by their daughter, Carmel Krauss.

Biography: In Memory of Sara Berenson Stone

Born in Bogalusa, Louisiana, Sara Berenson Stone (1915–2018) was a devoted philanthropist and voracious reader. One of a handful of Jewish students at Duke University, she graduated in 1935 and moved to New Orleans, where she began her eighty-year long advocacy for Jewish causes. A prolific reader of fiction and nonfiction, Mrs. Stone had a particular interest in biographies pertaining to the Jewish experience. This award honors writers whose work has elucidated the lives of those, past and present, who exemplify what it means to live, work, and think as a Jew. By the high quality of their writing, our award winners have given their subjects and themselves an honored place in our literary canon.

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

The Book Club Award recognizes an outstanding work of fiction or nonfiction that inspires meaningful conversation about Jewish life, identity, practice, or history, and which has the potential to nurture Jewish continuity. The award recognizes the power of books to promote Jewish community and thought-provoking discussions.

Children's Picture Book: Tracy and Larry Brown Family Award

An illustrated story or nonfiction book designed to be read aloud to children ages 3 to 8 years old or a board book intended for children 0-3 years old. This category should also include early readers and chapter books if they are intended for readers in the same age-range. The award will be shared by the author and illustrator.

Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice: Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award

This award is dedicated to the memory of JBC Board member Myra H. Kraft by Robert Kraft and family. Myra loved to read, and for many years served as the leader of the Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice Award panel.

Debut Fiction: The Goldberg Prize

This prize is supported through a generous grant by the Samuel Goldberg & Sons Foundation.

Education and Jewish Identity: In Memory of Dorothy Kripke

Dorothy Kripke was a prominent writer of books for Jewish children, including the *Let's Talk About . . .* series, stimulating interaction between children and parents. This award, created by her family, cherishes the memory of Mrs. Kripke.

Fiction: JJ Greenberg Memorial Award

The Fiction Award is endowed by Jewish Book Council past president and board member Blu Greenberg and her husband, Rabbi “Yitz” Greenberg, in loving memory of their son, JJ Greenberg. This is an eternal tribute to JJ’s love of reading, especially Jewish fiction.

Food Writing & Cookbooks: Jane and Stuart Weitzman Family Award

This award recognizes 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.

Hebrew Fiction in Translation: Jane Weitzman Award

A work of contemporary Israeli fiction, originally published in Hebrew, that has been translated from Hebrew in the current judging year.

History: Gerrard and Ella Berman Memorial Award

The Bermans, lovers of Jewish history, endowed this award to ensure the continued study of our glorious past and to honor outstanding books in the field.

Holocaust: In Memory of Ernest W. Michel

This prize honors writers who produce exceptional books on the subject of the Holocaust. Ernest Michel, born in Mannheim, Germany, survived six years in forced labor camps, including two and half years in Auschwitz. He and two friends escaped from a death march from Auschwitz four weeks before the end of World War II. He was the only survivor to serve as a correspondent for the German news agency DANA at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial in 1945. After arriving in America, he began to speak about his life experience and started working for the United Jewish Appeal. He served as Executive Vice President of New York UJA from 1970 to 1989, served as the organizer and chairman of the World Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in 1981, and was a founding trustee of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. In 1993, he published his memoir, *Promises to Keep: One Man’s Journey Against Incredible Odds*.

Holocaust Memoir: In Memory of Dr. Charles and Ethel Weitzman

A nonfiction book that recounts an individual’s experiences during the Holocaust, including memoirs written by survivors, co-authored books in which a survivor works with a writer to tell his or her story, accounts of a survivor’s experiences written by a member of his or her family (such a child or grandchild), or by another author that has access to and uses primary documents. A recently discovered or recovered diary or memoir written by someone who did not survive the Holocaust is also eligible.

Modern Jewish Thought and Experience: Dorot Foundation Award in Memory of Joy Ungerleider

Poetry: Berru Award in Memory of Ruth and Bernie Weinflash

The Berru Award for Poetry is dedicated to the memory of Ruth and Bernie Weinflash, who were respected leaders in their northern New Jersey community for over fifty years. A dynamic couple with both substance and style, they were not just avid readers, but also were astute critics, honing in on what spoke to both them and to the world at large. The arts were an important part of their lives. Ruth, a former actress and a lively and gifted orator, chaired the Cultural Arts Committee for many years at the JCC on the Palisades in Tenafly, New

Jersey. She also designed programs in local schools, introducing children to the lives of famous historical activists in order to spark interest in working to make this a better world. Bernie, an active member of many boards, served for over twenty years on the board of the Jewish Book Council. A true humanitarian, he believed that when people came together for a communal purpose, positive momentum would be ignited. With intellect, compassion, and vision, both Ruth and Bernie immeasurably enriched the Jewish community, understanding the important relationship between Jewish culture and Jewish survival.

Scholarship: Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award

Dr. Nahum M. Sarna was a leading biblical scholar who touched many lives through his work at Brandeis University, and through the written word in his books. His family, headed by sons Jonathan and David, established this award in his memory.

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

Mimi S. Frank, a past JBC Board member, endowed this award in memory of her grandmother, Becky Levy, who shared with her Sephardic recipes, a love of cooking and baking, and her culture from Tekirdag, Turkey.

Women's Studies: Barbara Dobkin Award

This award honors a leading figure in Jewish philanthropy and an outspoken advocate for Jewish women's rights. This award was established by Barbara Dobkin's friends, who wish to honor her extraordinary devotion to this cause.

Writing Based On Archival Material: The JDC-Herbert Katzki Award

This award honors a book of modern historical writing published in English based on archival material that includes footnotes and bibliography.

About JBC

JEWISH BOOK MONTH

NOVEMBER 6 - DECEMBER 6, 2023

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Artwork by Claudine Eriksson

Jewish Book Council

Jewish Book Council, founded in 1943, is the longest-running organization devoted exclusively to the support and celebration of Jewish literature. For over seventy years, we have worked closely with Jewish authors and their books, and used literature to bring people together for meaningful discussions around Jewish life, identity, and culture. We facilitate over 1,400 author events across North America annually; provide resources to more than 2,800 book clubs; publish an annual print literary journal; and give out over twenty annual literary awards, including the National Jewish Book Awards.

Jewish learning embodied in the printed word has played a crucial role in the development and strengthening of Jewish communities throughout the world. Jewish Book Council is proud to carry on this important tradition.

Major Programs

- **Jewish Book Month:** This special month on the Jewish calendar is traditionally observed during the thirty days before Hanukkah. As part of the celebration, JBC advises local communities on exhibits, fairs, book clubs, author speaking tours, and book-related programs. JBC also prepares educational and promotional materials.
- **Jewish Literary Conferences:** JBC sponsors an annual conference for writers of adult books and another for writers and illustrators of children's books. Both conferences are designed to assist aspiring writers.
- **JBC Book Clubs:** This is the central address for thousands of Jewish book clubs. It offers book clubs a one-stop shop to improve their reading experiences and enhance their conversations. JBC Book Clubs provides reviews, discussion questions, and reading lists. In addition, it offers features designed just for book clubs, such as guides to starting a new club, a personalized book recommendation service, and the opportunity to “host” authors through video chats.
- **JBC Network:** The JBC Network serves as a coordinating hub for book tours for Jewish authors and Jewish-interest books, sending more than 270 authors to over 130 communities across North America each year, as well as providing year-round resources and support for program coordinators.
- **JBC Read On:** This program is a speakers' bureau for authors who have previously participated in the JBC Network. Read On connects these authors to additional venues.
- **Natan Notable Books:** Natan Notable Books is a twice-yearly award for non-fiction books on Jewish themes. The award highlights vital books and authors, and brings innovative and important ideas to the attention of diverse audiences.
- **National Conference Support:** Jewish Book Council serves as a resource for national conferences directed at the Jewish community, providing speakers, arranging book displays, and organizing book sales at events.
- **National Jewish Book Awards:** Conferred annually since 1950, the awards are presented by category, and are intended to recognize authors of outstanding English-language books of Jewish interest and to encourage the reading of quality books of Jewish content.

- *Paper Brigade*: A collection of articles, interviews, fiction, poetry, and visual arts, JBC's annual literary journal reflects today's diverse Jewish literary landscape in America and abroad.
- PB Daily: The digital arm of Paper Brigade, PB Daily, provides daily updates on the world of Jewish literature from around the web, including information on new Jewish-interest books, reviews, feature articles, interviews, and videos.
- Unpacking the Book: Jewish Writers In Conversation: Unpacking the Book is an annual literary series, administered in partnership with the Jewish Museum in New York City and Tablet magazine, that brings together Jewish-interest authors for conversations about contemporary Jewish life and identity.
- Website: www.JewishBookCouncil.org features thousands of book reviews, reading lists, book club questions, event listings, information on JBC programs, and more.

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Guidelines and submission forms for the 74th
National Jewish Book Awards will be available in
June at www.jewishbookcouncil.org

See You Next Year!

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**Wishing a huge Mazel Tov to the
winners and a giant thank you to
the judges of the 73rd National
Jewish Book Awards!**

Etta and Raymond Zimmerman

**Congratulations to all of the 73rd National
Jewish Book Award winners on your
incredible literary achievement!**

**Jewish Book Council is a nonprofit that
supports writers and readers through awards,
year-round events, editorial initiatives, book
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promote great literature, ideas, and
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**With gratitude,
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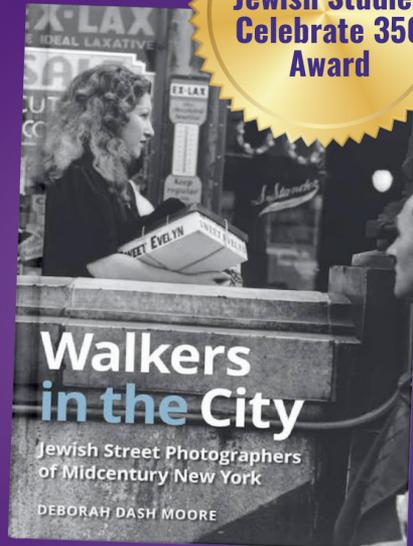
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dedication for Jewish Book
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Congratulations to all the
award winning authors of the
National Jewish Book Awards
and their meaningful
contributions to Jewish
literature.

A special thank you to Naomi
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make this day such an outstanding
success!**

**The work and
accomplishments of the JBC have
been invaluable and especially
important in these difficult times.**

Kol Hakavod!

Carmel and Eugene Krauss, MD

Congratulations to Ruth Madievsky,
River Adams and Buzzy Jackson,
the winner and finalists for the 73rd
National Jewish Book Awards Debut
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We thank you for your contribution
to the world of Jewish literary
fiction, and we can't wait to see
what your future contributions to
the world of Jewish literature will
be!

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Rachel and William Schultz

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