

# **MANDEL VILAR PRESS**



**2026 Jewish Book Catalogue**



MANDEL VILAR PRESS

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**Majoritizing minority literatures of the Americas**

Dear Colleagues, Friends, Authors, Jewish Writers, Scholars and Librarians

2026 is my forty-seventh year as a book editor and publisher. In my career I have helped publish over 2,000 books. From 1979 to 2013, I was successively a Senior Editor at SUNY Press, Assistant Director at Indiana University Press, Director of Wayne State University Press, Director of Syracuse University Press, Director of University of Wisconsin Press, Director of University of Alaska Press and Director of Texas Tech University Press. Throughout my career, I launched numerous Jewish book series publishing over 450 Jewish books of fiction and nonfiction. In December 2013, I retired from university press publishing and moved to Connecticut. Encouraged by former Jewish authors, in 2014 I launched a nonprofit literary trade publishing house, Mandel Vilar Press ([www.mvpublishers.org](http://www.mvpublishers.org)) and became the publishing arm of the nonprofit, Americas for Conservation + the Arts, ([www.americasforconservation.org](http://www.americasforconservation.org)).

With Mandel Vilar Press (MVP) I continue to publish Jewish fiction and nonfiction. In 2016 I co-published several books including the award-winning Blume Lempel's *Oedipus in Brooklyn and Other Stories* with another fine literary press, **Dryad Press**. In 2019, I launched a new MVP Jewish trade book imprint, **MomentBooks**, an exciting joint publishing venture with *Moment Magazine*. And in 2022, MVP established a strategic alliance with **Fig Tree Books**. MVP distributes their existing books and has several new projects that we co-published in 2024 and 2025.

MVP launched its new website and shopping cart at [www.mvpublishers.org](http://www.mvpublishers.org), so please visit and learn about our mission and vision for the future, about book events, our authors biographies, interviews, readers guides, reviews and awards, special sales, the new shopping cart, and our fundraising efforts to support our nonprofit press. **Books bought on our shopping cart receive free shipping anywhere in the USA.**

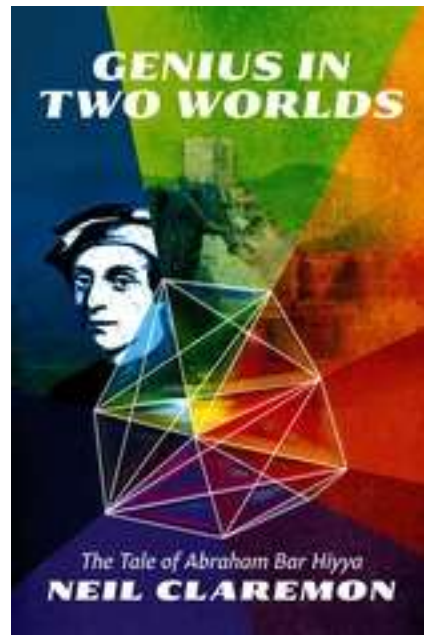
We celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024! Please find attached our **2026 Jewish & Holocaust fiction and nonfiction catalogue!**

Sincerely,

Robert Mandel, PhD  
Publisher, Mandel Vilar Press  
May 31, 2026

Mandel Vilar Press | [Robert@mandelvilar.org](mailto:Robert@mandelvilar.org)  
19 Oxford Court | Simsbury CT 06070 | Robert A. Mandel

**Mandel Vilar Press announces its forthcoming Fall 2026 title**



**Genius in Two Worlds: The Tale of Abraham bar Hiyya  
by Neil Claremon**

**About The Book**

Blending historical fact with speculative fiction, magical realism, and sharp social insight, Neil Claremon's return to the literary world tells a genre-defying tale of one man's journey across time. In this historical novel, Claremon brings to light the remarkable intellect and enduring legacy of one of medieval Europe's most influential yet under-appreciated Jewish thinkers, Abraham bar Hiyya. With masterful storytelling and meticulous research, Claremon paints a vivid portrait of bar Hiyya's contributions as a mathematician, astronomer, inventor, and skeptic who earlier navigated the perils of the religious crossroads of medieval Spain and suddenly finds himself by accident materialized and resurrected in the future, an era both familiar and disorienting in a world (not unlike his own) hurtling toward its own golden age--or possible collapse. Thrust into the glare of modern media and political intrigue, Abraham must decide: is he a relic of the past, or a prophet of the future?

From the crossroads of medieval Spain to the high-tech tensions of the 21st century. "Genius in Two Worlds: The Tale of Abraham Bar Hiyya" is an unforgettable journey through time, identity, and the resilience of knowledge. When a 12th century polymath, Abraham bar Hiyya--astronomer, astrologer, mathematician, inventor--is inadvertently trapped in a time traveling device of his own making, he reawakens 900 years later into a transformed world in the 21st century. Arriving with a fortune in jewels that powered his time-machine, Abraham reawakens in a modern landscape that echoes his own era's perils and aspirations. Abraham must now navigate an unfamiliar world where he finds himself shadowed by religious factions, courted by tech magnates and opportunists who covet his mysterious time-bending invention, and guided by a vibrant cast including a gypsy time-traveler, savants, scholars, and an entangling romance that resonates across centuries.

## About the Author

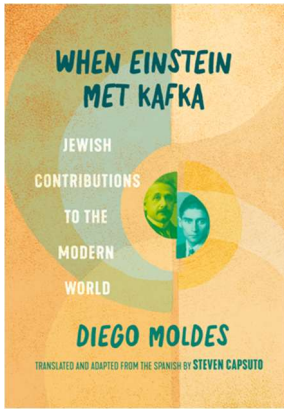
**Neil Claremon** was born and raised in New York. He graduated from Cornell University and received a master's degree from the University of Arizona. While working on his PhD at Stony Brook University, and inspired by Native American and Mexican Indian cultures and shamanism, Claremon wrote his first book of poetry, "East by Southwest," published by Simon & Schuster.

Because of this early work, Claremon was invited to become the director of the National Endowment for the Arts "Southwest Poetry Program", where for five years he collaborated with prominent American and Native American writers and with Native American and Mexican Indian cultures and shamanism--profoundly influencing his future. Claremon wrote his acclaimed novel, "Borderland," in 1975--one of the first contemporary books to consider alternative healing techniques and cited in *The New York Times* for "breaking a new literary terrain" and the *Bloomsbury Review* called him "a shaman and an original thinker."

In addition to his novels and poetry, Claremon has written screen scripts and synopses of novels for film and television. In 1991, Claremon published his now classic book, "Zen in Motion--Lessons from a Master Archer on Breath, Posture, and Intuition," a product of his tutelage with renowned Zen Master Kobun Chino Otagawa who helped establish Zen Buddhism in the U.S. and Europe blending traditional training with an informal, compassionate teaching style.

Claremon, his partner, Ruth, his horse, Chatto and his parrot, Sammy, balance their time between Westchester, New York, and Tucson, Arizona, where he pursues his interest in cosmology. Zen, shamanism, Kabbalah and healing that continue to inspire his work and his life.

ISBN: 9781942134411, Paperback with French Flaps, 256 pp, 5 illustrations, Price: \$19.95  
E-ISBN: 9781942134435, E-Book edition, Price: \$9.99



Published in Fall 2025

## **WHEN EINSTEIN MET KAFKA** **Jewish Contributions to the Modern World**

**By Diego Moldes**

**Translated and adapted from the Spanish by Steven Capsuto**

**“A well-researched, engrossing overview of the Jewish legacy in the modern world.” KIRKUS REVIEWS**

**“This landmark contribution by a leading cultural historian, Diego Moldes, is an original achievement: the fullest and most historically grounded study of Jewish intellectual and cultural achievements and contributions. It fills a gap in the worldwide literature.”**

—**Harvey J. Graff**, Emeritus comparative social and cultural historian, Ohio State University, author of *The Literacy Myth, Literacy and Social Development in the West*, and *Searching for Literacy: The Social and Intellectual Origins of Literary Studies*

**“There is no book like this one, which examines the contributions of Jews as individuals (not as a religious people) to all fields of knowledge.”—Stuart Weitzman**, World Renowned Shoe Designer and Entrepreneur

*When Einstein Met Kafka: Jewish Contributions to the Modern World*, by Diego Moldes, is a cultural history of the main contributions of Jews to the modern world (19th, 20th and 21st centuries). Moldes' book covers about 250 years and cites hundreds of Jews who made significant contributions to the sciences and humanities. There is no book in English or any other language like Diego Moldes', which examines the contributions of Jews as individuals (not as a religious people) to all fields of knowledge in Modernity. The book contains extensive chapters on: Education and Judaism, Anti-Semitism, Jewish Identity; Modern Geniuses of Humanity (“Overeducation”); Science and Inventions; Literature and Culture; Philosophy, History, and Thought; Business, Banking, and the World of Finance; Computing and the Internet; Fashion, Textile Industry, Cosmetics, and Retail; Sports; Cinema, Television, Music, and Entertainment; Comics; Art; Modern Architecture; The Publishing Industry; Journalism; Photography; Media and Advertising; Justice and Politics; Feminism; Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Conclusions and Questions for Discussion. Based on 25 years of research, Moldes wrote this book specifically for the general reader.

In April 1911, Prague artists, writers, and intellectuals often gathered nightly at the Café Louvre, an intellectual center where music was played and high-level discussions were held. Many of the attendees were German-speaking Jews, such as Franz Kafka and his faithful friend Max Brod, Hugo Bergmann, Oskar Kraus, Franz Werfel, the mathematician Georg Pick, and a new arrival to the city, thirty-two-year-old Albert Einstein. Is it possible that Kafka and Einstein met and exchanged ideas? Did they influence each other from a philosophical or deep-thinking perspective? In neither Kafka's nor Einstein's correspondence there is not even the slightest mention of each other. But Einstein and Kafka, two icons of our modern era, serve as the starting point for this book on the enormous contributions in the fields of the empirical sciences, humanities, letters, and arts by individuals of Jewish origin in modernity. In this book, the reader will encounter numerous names in the pages that all spring from the fountainhead of these two antecedents, the Einsteinian and the Kafkaian.

WHILE JEWS ACCOUNT FOR 0.2 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION and no more than 2.5 percent of any country except Israel, they have made some of the greatest contributions to Western Culture in diverse fields that range from physics and philosophy to music and art. One register of these contributions is Nobel Prizes: from its first recipients in 1901, 26 percent of awardees in the Nobel's six fields — among them, physics, physiology/medicine, and economics — have been Jews. What accounts for the extraordinary breadth of these achievements? This is a question that Diego Moldes examines in *When Einstein Met Kafka*.

Among his answers are the history of Jewish culture itself, whether Orthodox or secular, with its emphasis on literacy, learning, and especially inquiry and questioning. Until the European Enlightenment in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Jews did not have full citizenship and civil rights — they were barred from universities, from government, and from entire professions. The Enlightenment opened the doors! Despite the outbreaks of violent anti-Semitism — or what Diego Moldes calls Judeophobia —and continuing discrimination in all western countries, Jews now had legal rights, and they persevered. In a near-encyclopedic fashion, he profiles just how thousands of individual Jews, by name, made original contributions to fields as diverse as medicine artificial intelligence, philosophy, history, economics, business, world finance, computing, sports, film, architecture, and more! The book itself is an extraordinary achievement of twenty years of intensive research, yet written in an immensely engaging style that has been translated and adapted for English readers from the Spanish by Steven Capsuto.

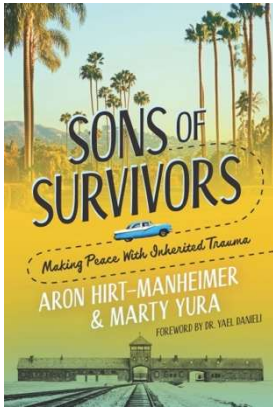
Originally published in Spanish by Galaxia Gutenberg, this engaging, sweeping, thought-provoking book has now been translated, edited, adapted, expanded, and updated for the English-speaking public around the globe. For general readers, and even for knowledgeable experts in world history and in Jewish history and biography, the information and stories in this far-ranging book will be an eye-opening experience. Drawing upon many sources inaccessible to English readers, Moldes examines the extraordinary roles and numerous achievements—social, cultural, economic, scientific, literary, and intellectual—of individual Jews that have helped to shape and improve the lives of everyday people in our Modern Age.

**Diego Moldes**, PhD, is a Spanish essayist, novelist, poet, critic and historian of cinema and culture. He has published sixteen books (see [diegomoldes.com](http://diegomoldes.com)). He published *Cuando Einstein encontró Kafka: contribuciones de los judíos al mundo moderno* in 2019 with Galaxia Gutenberg. His connection to Judaism led him to collaborate with Raíces: Revista Judía de Cultura (Roots: A Jewish Cultural Magazine). From 2015 to 2018, he served as the executive director of Fundación Hispanojudía (the Spanish-Jewish Foundation). In 2015, he became president and cofounder of the Asociación Fania (Fania Association), a nonprofit organization that combats antisemitism and supports Jewish cultural endeavors.

**Steven Capsuto** is a professional translator of Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, French, Galician and Ladino. His most recent translation was *Amazônia* by Sebastiao Salgado (Taschen, 2022); since 2019 he has been the main Ladino-English translator for *The Posen Library of Jewish Culture* (Yale). He is also the author of *Alternate Channels: The Uncensored Story of Gay and Lesbian Images on Television* (Original edition Ballantine Books, 2000, revised 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary eBook edition, 2020).

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Published in Fall 2025

**SONS OF SURVIVORS**  
**Making Peace with Inherited Trauma**  
By Aron Hirt-Manheimer and Marty Yura  
Foreword by Dr. Yael Danieli

This joint memoir encapsulates the power of friendship and love for two sons of Holocaust Survivors

**ABOUT THE BOOK**

The authors of this dual memoir are second-generation Holocaust survivors. They did not live through the trauma of the Holocaust, they inherited it. Whether survivor-parents revealed what they endured or erected barriers of silence, the horrors they experienced permeated the lives of their children.

Aron Hirt-Manheimer and Marty Yura grew up in the close-knit community of Yiddish-speaking refugees in America. After meeting in Los Angeles as high school students, the two became fast friends with much in common including the fact that they were both conceived in the same displaced persons camp in US-occupied Germany.

This memoir traces their colorful growing-up adventures through fast-paced alternating passages. Though the Holocaust formed the backdrop of their lives, they didn't talk much about it—until, as older adults, they embraced the imperative to bear witness. They set out to discover everything they could about what happened to their parents and other relatives in Poland during World War II.

For Aron, the most powerful revelations were contained in a nearly forgotten memoir written by his uncle fifty years earlier in Argentina. Marty's breakthrough came after participating in a Zen Peacemakers immersion retreat on the killing fields of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Navigating through this haunted terrain together, the friends realized that the love they inherited from their parents transcends the trauma. Their joint memoir attests to a legacy of love against hate.

**PRAISE FOR THE BOOK**

“At a moment when the Holocaust stakes fresh claim on contemporary life, *Sons of Survivors* offers fresh insights on the story that continues to shape our lives. Mixing personal friendship, family history, and profound insights on inherited trauma, Aron Hirt-Manheimer and Marty Yura help us to see our own story with more empathy and wonder. This book will inspire many meaningful conversations.”--**Bruce Feiler**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Walking the Bible* and *Life Is in the Transitions*

“This remarkably candid conversation between two lifelong friends is a major contribution to second-generation Holocaust literature and an inspiration to anyone burdened by trauma.”--**Rabbi Rick Jacobs**, President of the Union for Reform Judaism

“A remarkable tale of inter-generational karma, alternately courageous and tender, painful and promising, a story of historical reckoning. For all seekers on a quest for spiritual identity, this is a book of enduring hope, a profound testament to how shared memory is vital to healing.” --**Tias Little**, author of *Yoga of the Subtle Body*

“This strange and haunting dual memoir captures the legacy of the Holocaust and how it carries its ache down through generations. A gorgeous piece of work, it will give insight to anyone who wants to understand what was lost in the nightmare course of the twentieth century. And what was saved.”--**Rich Cohen**, author of *Tough Jews* and *The Fish That Ate the Whale*; and contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* and *Rolling Stone*.

“A memorable contribution to post-war American Jewish history and to the literature on inherited trauma.”--**Jonathan D. Sarna**, The Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History, Brandeis University, author of many books including *American Judaism: A History*, *Lincoln and the Jews: A History*; and *When General Grant Expelled the Jews*

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

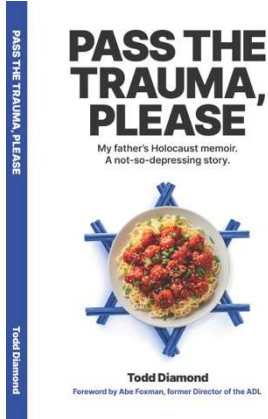
**Aron Hirt-Manheimer**, born in the Feldafing D.P. Camp, U.S. Zone,-Occupied Germany, emigrated with his family to the U.S. when he was three to Cleveland, Ohio. He later moved to Los Angeles in 1960, receiving his BA in psychology from UCLA (1970) and an MA in Jewish education (1976) from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. From 1976 to 2014 Aron served as editor of *Reform Judaism magazine* (Union for Reform Judaism) and as URJ editor-at-large until 2021. He co-edited with Irving Abrahamson *Against Silence: The Voice and Vision of Elie Wiesel* and co-authored *Jagendorf's Foundry: Memoir of the Romanian Holocaust, 1941-1944*. He is also coauthor with Arthur Hertzberg of *Jews: The Essence and Character of a People*. Aron lives in Ridgefield, Connecticut with his wife of 51 years, Judy.

**Marty Yura** was also conceived in the Feldafing D.P. camp and born after his family arrived in New York. Growing up in the Bronx he relocated at age sixteen with his family to Los Angeles and graduated from UCLA with a BA in psychology in 1970. He immigrated to Israel, and was inducted into the Israel Defense Forces and served as an officer and a field psychologist in an infantry brigade at the time of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. On completion of his military service, Marty returned to the U.S. and completed his MA in psychology at California State University – Los Angeles (1976). He worked as a management consultant, headed a computer-based learning company, and worked in the financial services industry for over thirty years. In 2009, he and his wife, Marti, co-founded Vista Yoga, where they teach yoga and meditation, including a yoga program for veterans with PTSD at Emory Healthcare. Marty and his wife of forty years live in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Dr. Yael Danieli**, Foreword contributor, is a world-famous clinical psychologist, a renowned victimologist, traumatologist, and the Director and co-founder of the *Group Project for Holocaust Survivors and their Children* (1975) in the New York City area. She has done extensive psychotherapeutic work with survivors and offspring of survivors and has studied their post-war responses, attitudes and the impact the Holocaust has had on their lives. In the last decade, she has created the *Danieli Inventory for Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma* that allows scientifically valid assessment and comparative international study of this phenomena. Most recently she has founded the *International Center for the Study, Prevention and Treatment of Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma*: [www.icmglt.org](http://www.icmglt.org)

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## Co-Published in our new Imprint: **Fig Tree Books** in Fall 2025



### **Pass The Trauma, Please**

**By Todd Diamond**

Foreword by Abe Foxman

A Fig Tree Imprint Book

**If Mel Brooks and Amy Schumer adopted a second-generation Holocaust survivor, raised him, then sent him off to a writer's retreat, you'd get *Pass the Trauma Please*.**

*"Pass the Trauma, Please* isn't just about the death camps, the gas chambers, the incomprehensible evil. It's about the Holocaust and its aftershocks. The unrelenting ripple effect of a unique trauma that echoes through children raised in the long shadow of tragedy." —**ABE FOXMAN, former national director of the Anti-Defamation League.**

*"This original, provocative, and irreverent memoir presents us with a unique second-generation Holocaust survivor viewpoint that is worthy of a film script. It helps us fathom the unfathomable and even manages to make us laugh along the way. This is not your typical Holocaust story in any way, shape, or form, and therein lies its strength."*—**JAY ROSENBLATT, Academy Award-nominated director**

*"It takes great courage to confront one's demons by sharing them with your children, especially when they are now adults. Yet, that's exactly what ninety-year-old Holocaust survivor David Diamondstein finally does—before his time runs out. Written with much love and wit, his son Todd comes to grips with his own trauma by connecting the historic dots between the Holocaust and the rise of current global antisemitism in the post-October 7th world. Pass the Trauma, Please stands as a unique memoir among Holocaust literature because it does far more than document the past. It connects the past to the present."* —**HAYA MOLNAR, author of Under a Red Sky: Memoir of a Childhood in Communist Romania, winner of the National Jewish Book Award**

*"The enormity of the Holocaust could not possibly be dissipated in one generation. Todd Diamond's daring, transgressive, entertaining memoir reads like a roller-coaster speeding from past to present and then back again, reimagining the unimaginable, looking for a finishing line that can never be crossed and a legacy that can't be ignored."* —**THANE ROSENBAUM, author of the post-Holocaust trilogy: The Golems of Gotham, Secondhand Smoke, and Elijah Visible.**

*"I laughed so hard at some of this and felt sick in other places. Definitely, a whirlwind of emotions. I sure wish I could meet Todd's father. What a story."* —**ELIZABETH ASDORIAN, creative director, Ancestry.com**

**ABOUT THE BOOK:** PASS THE TRAUMA, PLEASE is a comedy-drama memoir that presents the most brutal moment of Jewish history in an unorthodox manner. It honors the life lessons of a Holocaust survivor who reveals long-buried truths about surviving as an orphan and soldier who fought for Israeli independence. His scandalous secrets are disclosed to his son during an unforgettable Sunday night dinner in a Chinese restaurant.

But it's not just stories that were passed down from a survivor to his children. Genetically Inherited Holocaust Trauma hitches a ride, resulting in his son's dysfunctional relationships and dubious behaviors. Like many books about the Holocaust, PASS THE TRAUMA, PLEASE addresses loss. But there's also drug smuggling, attempts to reverse a circumcision, brothels, kibbutz ambushes, divorce, death camp visits, decadent nights at Studio 54, and tales of lost virginity. Despite his own insecurities as a

writer, plus deep concerns that other genocides might soon eclipse the Holocaust, a catalyst that drives the author is... will he finish the book while his father, one of the last Holocaust survivors, is still alive?

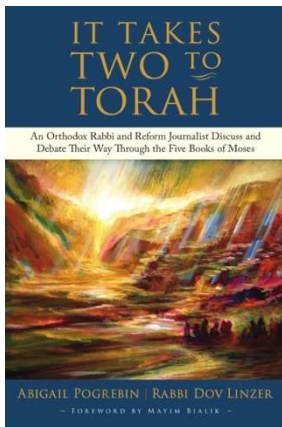
Another motivation for the book's unique structure and irreverent tone is the challenge thrown down by Todd Diamond's father who said, "Do me a favor, son. No long-winded descriptions of the smells in the Ghetto, the corpses. Everyone knows this already. Elie Wiesel, Primo Levy, Anne Frank, that guy who wrote the comic book about the mouse, they all covered it. Don't be afraid to slip in a few jokes. What do you call it again... that bullshit you always say... oh yeah, write something poster-punk." He meant to say, post-punk. Todd's father concluded his appeal by saying, "And besides, you're no Elie Wiesel."

So, while *PASS THE TRAUMA, PLEASE* probes the darkness of humanity, you'll also find an equal amount of irreverence and humor that distinguishes it from most Holocaust memoirs. The unrelenting ripple effect of a unique trauma that echoes through children raised in the long shadow of tragedy. He writes his story and the story of his parents and his extended family who perished in the Holocaust in a provocative and irreverent style to hopeful appeal and educate a broader readership. To that end, Todd finds light and humor amidst the wreckage, a real testament to the power of memory.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Todd Diamond**, born in Queens, New York, a graduate of the Newhouse School Public Communications at Syracuse University, receiving a B.S. Degree in Advertising. After working at his first copywriting jobs in Providence and Boston, he left New England for Silicon Valley and started the DMNA Agency that grew to become the one of the largest advertising firms in Silicon Valley. After more than two decades leading his ad agency, Todd left Silicon Valley to break some ground of his own: he purchased a peony flower farm in Massachusetts. During the Covid pandemic hit and, Todd realized that he might not get the chance to spend time again with his father, a Holocaust survivor who lives in California. He therefore started writing his second-generation memoir, *PASS THE TRAUMA, PLEASE, My Father's not-so-depressing Holocaust memoir about loveless, laughter, and legacy*. Today Todd and his family now live in Northern Virginia.

**Abe Foxman** is an American lawyer and activist. He served as national director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) from 1987 to 2015 and is currently the League's national director emeritus. From 2016 to 2021 he served as vice chair of the board of trustees at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City leading its efforts on antisemitism.

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## It Takes Two to Torah

**An Orthodox Rabbi and Reform Journalist Discuss and Debate  
Their Way Through The Five Books of Moses**  
**By Abigail Pogrebin and Rabbi Dov Linzer**  
**Foreword by Mayim Bialik**

**A Fig Tree Book Imprint of Mandel Vilar Press**

"Pogrebin and Linzer illuminate the Torah through discussion in the most joyous, insightful, conversational way."—**Julianna Margulies**, Actor/Producer/Author

"This unlikely, inspired pairing of an esteemed Torah scholar (Orthodox) and brilliant journalist (Reform) leads to some of the most spontaneous, moving exchanges about our tradition's foundational text."  
--**Rabbi Angela Buchdahl**, Senior Rabbi, Central Synagogue

"Rabbi Linzer and journalist Pogrebin (*My Jewish Year*) discuss 52 weekly readings of the Torah in this **intellectually lively** adaptation of their Parsha in Progress podcast. Aiming to step outside their "echo chambers," the authors draw **fresh insights**.... Such openness gives the book its **spark** and propels the authors' broad-minded consideration of such questions as the value of ritual versus belief and what the Bible might have to say about gender identity. Rigorous and readable, it's a stimulating addition to modern-day Torah scholarship."--**Publishers Weekly**

"It takes two to study, two to explain, two—especially these two—to enchant the reader. Here is Torah both profound and accessible, touch our everyday experience. Read, be delighted, and learn."  
--**Rabbi David Wolpe**, Author, Max Webb Rabbi Emeritus of Sinai Temple

"This conversation is in turn fascinating, upsetting, intriguing, surprising, playful, judgmental, pluralistic, and full of living wisdom for today."—**Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg**, Author, *The Triumph of Life: A Narrative Theology of Judaism*

"Each chapter also touches on hidden interpretation and insight into Divine meaning." *From the Foreword*, by **Mayim Bialik**

For the first time, in a single volume, readers can take a tour of the entire Torah through the medium of one challenging, instructive, irreverent, animated conversation. Rabbi Dov Linzer, an Orthodox rabbi, and Abigail Pogrebin, a Reform journalist talk their way through the Five Books of Moses with candor, humor, emotion, personal revelation, and scholarship.

Rabbi Linzer is President and Rabbinic Head of YCT Rabbinical School (a Modern Orthodox seminary,) and Abigail Pogrebin is a veteran journalist, author of "*My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew*" and former producer for "60 Minutes."

Dov is a renowned expert in Torah and Talmud, whose personal values run liberal and egalitarian, but who also has clear parameters about what is halachically correct and comfortable when it comes to Jewish law and tradition. Abby is our relatable every-Jew in America, deeply engaged in Jewish life, but less through strict observance and prayer as through study, reporting, synagogue, and community.

This book is the product of two people literally meeting in the middle to bring us their most honest intellectual and relevant understanding of the Torah. Pogrebin and Linzer engaged in short dialogues on a podcast for Tablet Magazine, and they have now been collected and edited so that the full, fascinating exploration can be found in one place.

This book is a Torah conversation-starter for families on Shabbat, for religious school instructors with students of all ages, for individuals who have never found a way to read the entire Torah in bite-size, relatable nuggets, and for young clergy looking for some sermon ideas if they're stuck! Most of all, it is a snapshot of what Torah study is meant to be: a real-time, candid, instructive, challenging exchange of responses to ancient text. "It Takes Two to Torah" is not just an education, it's an invitation – to join the oldest Book Club in the world.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

**Rabbi Dov Linzer** is the President and Rosh HaYeshiva (Rabbinic Head) of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah (YCT), an Orthodox rabbinical school and Torah center which promotes a more open and inclusive Orthodoxy. A leading Torah voice in the Modern Orthodox community, Rabbi Linzer serves as religious mentor to YCT's students and its over 200 rabbis in the United States and Israel. He has written for The Forward, Tablet and The New York Times, has published hundreds of teshuvot (responsa) and scholarly Torah articles, and hosted several highly popular Torah podcasts.

**Abigail Pogrebin** is the author of "*Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish*" and "*My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew*" which was published by Fig Tree Books LLC and was a finalist for a National Jewish Book Award. She has written for The Atlantic, New York Magazine, Tablet, and The Forward, and moderated public conversations for The Streicker Center, the Shalom Hartman Institute, the JCC in Manhattan, and Jewish Broadcasting Service. She is a past president of Central Synagogue in New York.

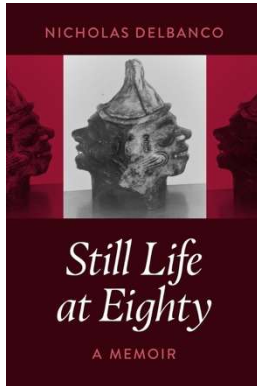
**Mayim Bialik**, PhD, is perhaps best known for her lead role as Blossom Russo in the 1990s television sitcom *Blossom*, and she starred on the top-rated comedy *The Big Bang Theory*. Bialik earned a BS from UCLA in 2000 in neuroscience and Hebrew and Jewish studies, and a PhD in neuroscience from UCLA in 2007.

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# *Still Life at Eighty, A Memoir*

by **Nicholas Delbanco**



“John Updike once said that Nicholas Delbanco struggles with his strengths the way other writers struggle with their weaknesses. Delbanco’s strengths remain in full force in *Still Life at Eighty*, but the fluency, the self-reflexivity, the allusiveness and elusiveness, the wit are in service here to what feels like something new: in the face of mortality, a chastened and measured modesty and humility and melancholy. The Delbanco book I’ve been waiting and wanting to read for half my life. Bravo.” —**David Shields**, author of *Reality Hunger*, and *The Thing About Life Is That One Day You’ll Be Dead*, *Black Planet*, and *Other People: Takes & Mistakes*

"It is fitting that Nicholas Delbanco, author of [Lastingness: The Art of Old Age](#) has demonstrated his own lastingness with this aptly titled, meditative memoir, an exquisite retrospective, on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday." - **Paul Theroux** novelist and travel writer, author of numerous books, including the travelogue *The Great Railway Bazaar* (1975).

"*Still Life at Eighty* is a triumphant, wise, and elegant memoir that beautifully explores the experience of aging, the joy of life, the inevitability of its end, and Delbanco's remarkably influential journey through the arts."-- **Charles Johnson**, author of *Middle Passage*, A National Book Award winner and MacArthur Fellow

“A life well lived, well remembered, supremely well written. Houses, family, books, fellow writers, mentors, protégés, ghosts – the wide-eyed younger self meets the wise man looking back with gratitude - gratitude absolute. A joy, an affirmation, a life worth reading: Nicholas Delbanco does it again.”—**James Carroll**, author of *The Cloister*

“Nowadays the word “memoir” can conjure up gruesome tales of abuse, crime, and poverty. Happily, Nicholas Delbanco’s backward look at age 80 is a welcome rarity: this richly gifted author has been blessed with a fortunate life... Scores of houses (“repositories of memory”); rollicking friendships with the major writers of his time; a family troupe of loving women. Altogether the book is a delight and an education, in its perusal of the stages of life and the wisdom that accrues.”—**Lynn Sharon Schwartz**, author of 29 books of fiction, essays and poetry including the novels, *Disturbances in the Field*, *Leaving Brooklyn*, and *Rough Strife*.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Novelist, critic, essayist, screenwriter, teacher, traveler, and art aficionado, Nicholas Delbanco has here compiled a mosaic of his life as he glances backwards and forwards from the vantage point of his eightieth year. Each home relocation with its inevitable remodeling becomes a metaphor for the reconstruction of the self over his lifetime. In episodic riffs, *Still Life at Eighty* revisits seven houses where Delbanco welcomed a panoply of literati, such as Mary Ruefle, Mary Lee Settle, Mary Robison, John Ashbery, John Cheever, John Irving, and John

Updike. Each abode becomes a receptacle of memory, as he recalls his friendships with the likes of James Baldwin, Grace Paley, Frederick Busch, Donald Barthelme, and Russell Banks.

*Still Life at Eighty* is saturated with artistic appreciation, which colors Delbanco's life from early childhood to his eightieth year. The grandson of collectors (whose paintings were plundered by the Nazis), nephew of a London gallerist, son of an accomplished painter, and a collector himself, Delbanco summons his reminiscences of art, artifacts, and artists as he pivots from a youthful artistic apprenticeship to become a prolific professional writer, sustained, and inspired by his wife of fifty-three years, Elena; his daughters, Francesca and Andrea; and five granddaughters.

Delbanco finds solace in the things of this world: a Biedermeier desk, an Ekoi mask, and an instrument case that held the fabled Countess of Stanlein ex-Paganini Stradivarius Violoncello of 1707—all reminders of a treasured past. Together with these cherished artifacts, former homes, and the myriad writers and artists who slip in and out of this erudite memoir, *Still Life at Eighty* makes readers privy not only to Delbanco's rich experiences, but also to the vast aesthetic wealth of his long life.

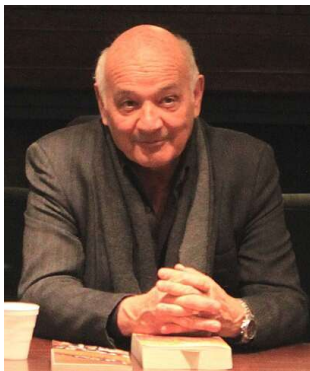
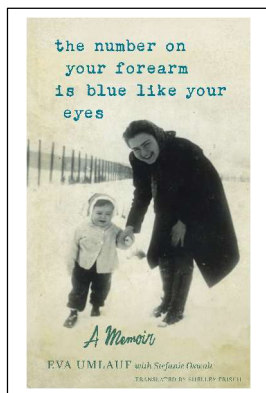


Photo: Courtesy of the Author]

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** Nicholas Delbanco is the author of more than thirty works of fiction and non-fiction. At the University of Michigan – from which he retired as the Robert Frost Distinguished University Professor in English—he was Director of the Helen Zell Writers' Program and, for twenty-five years, the Hopwood Awards. As the founding Director of the Bennington Summer Writing Workshops, he created the low-residency MFA program. Delbanco is a recipient of the J.S. Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship and twice awarded the National Endowment for the Arts Grant in Prose Fiction. He has served as Chair of the Fiction Panel for the National Book Awards, and as a judge for the Pulitzer Prize. With his wife, Elena, he divides his time between Manhattan and Cape Cod.

ISBN: 9781942134985, 208 pp, 6 x 9, Paperback with French Flaps, 32 B&W photos, \$21.95

E-ISBN: 9781942134992 / 208 pp, 6 x 9 / E-Book / 32 B&W photos / \$9.99



## ***The Number on Your Forearm Is Blue Like Your Eyes: A Memoir***

**By Eva Umlauf with Stefanie Oswald**

**Translated from the German by Shelley Frisch**

Foreword by Michael Brenner

Afterword by Naomi Umlauf

**Co-publication from Mandel Vilar Press and Dryad Press**

“Among the accounts of people who survived the Holocaust, Eva Umlauf’s is a most remarkable one. When just under two she had a number tattooed on her arm and against all odds survived to tell her tale.” **Dr. Anita Lasker-Wallfisch**, last surviving member of the Women’s Orchestra of Auschwitz

“Eva Umlauf reveals what it was like to live in the shadow of the Holocaust, under Communism, and in an emerging Federal Republic of Germany. Her story will surprise even those who think they know everything about the Holocaust.”—**Professor Michael Brenner**, American University; author of *After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Postwar Germany*, and co-author of the four-volume *German-Jewish History in Modern Times*

### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

If you want to live, leave your children,” an Auschwitz prisoner working at the railroad ramp warned new arrivals. On November 3, 1944, a pregnant Agnes Hecht, having been transported from a Jewish labor camp in Slovakia, was one of thousands on the platform. She was carrying her twenty-three-month-old daughter, Eva. Agnes ignored the prisoner’s advice. Though children and older people were usually sent to be gassed summarily, Agnes and Eva entered the death camp and were “processed.”

Eva’s friend Ján Karšai wrote a poem for her: “the number on your forearm / is blue like your eyes . . . / your belly was swollen like a balloon when they found you in faraway Oświęcim / no one would believe that you will live / that you’ll come back to witness / your broken home.”

While Eva, her baby sister Nora, who was born in Auschwitz, and her mother survived, her father, Imrich Hecht, did not. He had been transferred to Melk, a subcamp of Mauthausen, and was murdered there in March 1945.

After the liberation, Agnes remained in the camp infirmary until her two girls were well enough to travel. She brought them back to Trenčín in western Slovakia. Eva and her sister grew up with a mother who had to “survive her survival.” The family was devastated by the deaths of Imrich, Agnes’s three siblings, and her grandparents. Eva was often ill, a result of her incarceration in Auschwitz. Nevertheless, she excelled in school and went on to study medicine in Bratislava—uncommon for a Jew. In 1966, she married Jakob Sultanik, a Holocaust survivor who had resettled in Munich, Germany. Eva fled Communist Czechoslovakia in 1967 to join him. There she began her practice as a pediatrician and later as a child psychotherapist, and for the first time she was able to fully embrace her Jewish identity.

Jakob died in a tragic accident when their son, Erik, was a young boy. Eva later married a fellow physician, Bernd Umlauf, and they had two sons together, Oliver and Julian. Though she lived a normal life, the horror of her early years resurfaced in nightmares about the gas chambers and the murdered babies.

Having achieved prominence in her career, Eva resolved to find out what had happened to her and her family during the Holocaust. With the assistance of journalist Stefanie Oswald, Eva conducted interviews and immersed herself in witness reports and archival histories. In 2016, her memoir, *Die Nummer auf*

*deinem Unterarm ist blau wie deine Augen: Erinnerungen* was published by Hoffmann und Campe Verlag. The German edition has now been beautifully translated into English by Shelley Frisch. The memoir concludes with a moving afterword by her bi-racial American granddaughter, Naomi Umlauf.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS & TRANSLATOR**

**EVA UMLAUF** was one of the youngest survivors of Auschwitz. After World War II she returned with her mother and sister to Trenčín in Czechoslovakia. She studied medicine, married a fellow Holocaust survivor and managed, with difficulty, to leave Soviet-controlled Czechoslovakia in 1966 and settled with her husband in Munich. After his untimely death and with a child to support, she worked as a clinic doctor, later opening a pediatrics practice and becoming a child psychotherapist. She married a second time and had two more sons. Eva spoke at the 2011 commemoration ceremony in Auschwitz, and since then has been involved in many research projects and as a contemporary witness at international conferences. She continues to practice psychotherapy.

**STEFANIE OSWALT** earned her doctorate in Jewish Studies in Potsdam. She worked as a freelance journalist for Deutschland Radio and as an author in Berlin. Most recently, she published *Ari Means Lion* (with Ari Rath, Zsolnay Verlag, 2012).

**SHELLEY FRISCH** taught at Columbia University and Haverford College, where she chaired the German Department, before turning to translation full-time in the 1990s. Her translations from German, including biographies of Friedrich Nietzsche, Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci, Marlene Dietrich/Leni Riefenstahl (dual biography), and Franz Kafka, along with many other works of fiction and nonfiction, have been awarded numerous translation prizes, including the Helen and Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize.

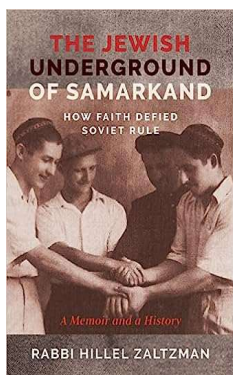
**MICHAEL BRENNER** is the Seymour and Lillian Abensohn Chair in Israel Studies and director of American University's Center for Israel Studies. He is the author of none books including *After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Postwar Germany*, and *Hitler's Munich: Jews, the Revolution, and the Rise of Nazism*. He is the co-author of the four-volume *German-Jewish History in Modern Times*, for which he was awarded a National Jewish Book Award. Additionally he is the Editor of nineteen books.

**NAOMI UMLAUF** is a student at Brown University and Eva's granddaughter. In her afterword she discusses the impact of the Holocaust on her family and on herself as a third-generation survivor.

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E- ISBN: 9781942134978; Ebook; \$9.99



# The Jewish Underground of Samarkand

## How Faith Defied Soviet Rule

by Rabbi Hillel Zaltzman

“Rabbi Zaltzman’s earnestness, his humanity, and modesty are irresistible. The bravery of resistance dominates throughout. You have in your hands a cultural treasure!”  
**Cynthia Ozick**, Award-winning American novelist, short story writer, and essayist

“Stirring memoir . . .Enlightens readers who are unaware of a thriving Jewish community in the former Soviet Union. It’s a fascinating blend of personal and cultural history.” **Publishers Weekly**

“While the Kremlin ruthlessly suppressed organized religion, Chassidic Jews in Samarkand managed to sustain their traditions with determined ingenuity. Brimming with vivid detail, this book will interest anyone curious to know how they survived in the face of Stalinist repression.” —**Joshua Rubenstein**, Harvard University, author of *The Last Days of Stalin*

“The inspiring story of Chabad’s underground followers in far-off Samarkand as recounted by a Lubavitch activist who defied the Communists and survived to tell the tale. . . . An unforgettable chronicle of courage and perseverance.” —**Jonathan D. Sarna**, Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History, Brandeis University

“Sheds light on aspects of the Jewish struggle for religious liberty in the Soviet Union. . . . This book will inform the reader about events that took place in Samarkand that in many ways changed the course of Soviet Jewish history.”—**Michael N. Dobkowski**, John Milton Potter Chair in the Humanities, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

“Part historian, part I. B. Singer, Rabbi Zaltzman has the storyteller’s genius. In this astonishing narrative, he tells of his family’s journey and that of fellow Chabad Lubavitchers to Samarkand, fleeing the Nazi invasion of Ukraine, and their struggles to keep their religious practices alive under the brutal rule of the Soviet Union.”—**Sol Gittleman**, Professor Emeritus, Tufts University

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**The Jewish Underground of Samarkand: How Faith Defied Soviet Rule** by Rabbi Hillel Zaltzman relates the largely unknown story of the Chassidic Jewish underground that operated in Samarkand under the watchful eyes of the KGB—a story of faith, courage, and resilience. When the Nazis invaded Ukraine, throngs of Jews fled eastward to the Soviet provinces of Central Asia. Members of the Chabad stream of Chassidism settled in the cities of Samarkand and Tashkent in Uzbekistan. Hillel Zaltzman’s family was among these refugees.

After the war, Jewish communities across the Soviet Union faced renewed efforts by Stalin and the Soviet regime to shut down their religious institutions and eliminate Jewish religious identity. As a child, Hillel studied in secret with Chassidic teachers who could have been sent to Siberia if discovered.

At sixteen, Hillel joined *Chamah*, an underground organization founded by a small group of young men to promote Jewish life through education. This clandestine group succeeded in establishing a network of underground Jewish schools for more than 1,500 children, as well as a secret yeshiva in Samarkand for older students. Zaltzman describes the memorable people he worked with and the sacrifices they made to share their love of Torah and Jewish learning. He also recalls some of their more colorful adventures—their attempts to celebrate Jewish holidays in secret, hold prayer services, make their own Passover matzah, and obtain religious texts when it was illegal to do so. In 1971, after fifteen years of waiting, Zaltzman finally received his exit visa and emigrated to Israel with his family. There he helped reestablish *Chamah*—this time to help new immigrants from the Soviet Union settle in their new homes and reclaim their Jewish identity.

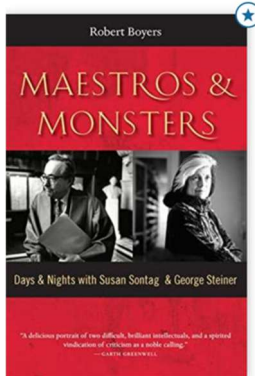
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Hillel Zaltzman** was born in Kharkov, Ukraine, in 1939. He was three years old when his parents fled from the invading Nazis and settled in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. At sixteen, he joined *Chamah*, an underground organization created to keep Judaism alive despite the Soviet government’s efforts to suppress it. In 1971, he received his exit visa and emigrated to Israel where he helped reestablish *Chamah* to help Russian Jews reclaim their Jewish heritage.

Rabbi Zaltzman is president of *Chamah*, a successful organization assisting Jews in the US, Israel, and former Soviet Union. Under his leadership, *Chamah* has expanded its activities to include social and medical services, educational programs, and a publishing division. He was honored in the US Senate for his humanitarian work in 2016 as part of Jewish American Heritage Month.

ISBN 9781942134923 424 text pages plus 16-page photo insert, 6 x 9, \$29.95

E-ISBN 9781942134930 424 text pages plus photos, 6 x 9, \$12.99



## Maestros & Monsters

Days & Nights with Susan Sontag & George Steiner

By Robert Boyers

A co-publication of Mandel Vilar Press and Dryad Press

Starred Review + Named to KIRKUS “Best Books of 2023 for Nonfiction”

**“A nimble, eminently readable tribute to a pair of literary giants who weren’t shy of calling themselves such.”**

“The species of intransigence that Robert Boyers admired in Sontag and Steiner, the friction-fed belief that sentences were not just scribbles, not just faulty transcriptions of reality — they *were* reality. . . . For that he forgave them almost everything. And in this vivid affectionate, quietly combative book he persuades the reader to do the same.—James Marcus, *TLS* [*Times Literary Supplement*]

“One of the most wince-inducing scenes in *Maestros & Monsters* takes place on a bus to an academic conference, where Sontag kept saying hello to Steiner, louder and louder, as he stared out the window, refusing to answer. Boyers blames their falling out on Sontag’s failure to thank or repay Steiner after he obtained some rare books she asked for. But the whole episode sounds like it could have taken place in a kindergarten. . . . Boyers’ account of his idols’ bad behavior suggests the wisdom of this policy. *Such anecdotes make Boyers’ book delicious reading for connoisseurs of gossip about intellectuals.*—Adam Kirsch, *Jewish Review of Books*

“Robert Boyers has made in this sometimes brutally honest but always loving memoir of his difficult friends a moving contribution to the history of our intellectual culture. Boyers and his wife, the poet Peg Boyers, were for decades deeply involved with Sontag and Steiner’s work, no less when they disagreed with them. What Sontag called ‘the dramaturgy of ideas’ and ‘the dramaturgy of feeling’ flow together in Boyers’ portrait of brilliance and vulnerabilities, and the life of the mind as human passion.” — Darryl Pinckney

“Robert Boyers has managed not only to draw extraordinarily vivid portrayals of two writer-critics, but also to add a third portrait: that of the author himself, who plays a sort of wry pragmatic Sancho Panza role to these two disputatious Knights of Intellect. A thrillingly generous book, it deserves to be seen as following in the grand tradition of Samuel Johnson’s *Lives of the Poets*, Sainte-Beuve’s biographical sketches and Turgenev’s *Literary Reminiscences.*”—Phillip Lopate

“This superb book takes us back to the last moments of the golden age of American letters. Despite inescapable faults and foibles of these figures, Robert Boyers lays bare with wisdom and wit their absolute commitment to the life of the mind and majesty of the intellectual vocation. His own profound capacity for friendship animates and elevates this fascinating book.” — Cornel West

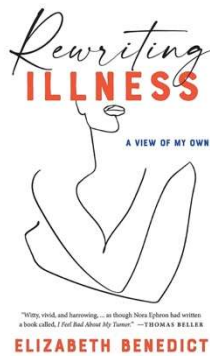
“Robert Boyers possesses a rare genius for friendship, and above all his book is a testament to friendship as a way of life, and as the medium in which thinking thrives. I loved it.” — Garth Greenwell

*Maestros & Monsters* is not merely about the bad behavior of a couple of intellectuals. (How bad could they be, anyway, compared to actors, financiers, or rock stars?) Boyers delivers the gossip, but he also makes a serious case for the importance of Sontag and Steiner. Both were proudly independent and unafraid to dissent. They were a different species from today’s intellectuals, who run with the herd, largely conforming to progressivism’s neo-Stalinist orthodoxy.—David Mikics, ‘The Last Jewish Intellectuals,’ *Tablet*

Boyers’ memoir of his 50-years of friendship with Susan Sontag and George Steiner focuses an insider’s lens on two celebrated Jewish intellectuals. As the founding editor of the acclaimed literary quarterly, *Salmagundi*, Boyers formed a lifelong friendship with both Susan Sontag and George Steiner involving publications in the pages of his journal, collaboration in planning several of the magazine’s symposia and regularly participating in the New York State Summer Writers Institute in Saratoga Springs. Although close to both Sontag and Steiner, Boyers was aware of their mutual antipathy, yet managed to bring them together on several frosty occasions. *Maestros & Monsters* recounts the highs and lows of friendship with these two intellectual icons whose ambitions and achievements were outsized. Brilliant though they were, Sontag and Steiner could also be demanding and difficult. Their encounters with other leading thinkers—Arthur Koestler, Irving Howe, Conor Cruise O’Brien, Edward Said, Philip Rieff, James Wood—sparked debates and at times, bitter recriminations. Though Sontag and Steiner often tested Boyers’ patience, his loyalty remained steadfast — and it was rewarded with their trust in him and their lifelong bond.

**Robert Boyers** founded *SALMAGUNDI*, an international quarterly, in 1965 and continues to edit the journal, to teach at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, and to direct The New York State Summer Writers Institute. He is the author of hundreds of periodical essays and of a dozen books, including his 2019 book on the “culture wars.” *The Tyranny of Virtue: Identity, The Academy & The Hunt for Political Heresies*. He also edited and wrote the introduction for *George Steiner at The New Yorker*, a book that has been published in more than twenty languages.

ISBN: 9781942134886 / Paper with French flaps / 256 pages / photos, bibliography, and index / \$24.95  
eBook ISBN 9781942134879 / \$11.99



## Rewriting Illness A View of My Own

By Elizabeth Benedict  
A co-publication of Mandel Vilar Press and Dryad Press

"A New York City cancer memoir informed by Susan Sontag and Nora Ephron.... A fine antidote to anodyne cancer accounts. **Kirkus Reviews**

"Despite its scary subject, this chronicle reads more like a breathtaking whodunnit — or rather, a *whafdunnit*... Benedict's writing sparkles.... Benedict whips language around like a gunslinger.... Benedict's fearless descriptions of how every step (and misstep) felt, are mesmerizing.... Give it to friends. It's supremely worth the journey." **Boston Globe**

"...Should be required reading for every medical student, resident, and physician, prompting us to reflect on how we talk to and care for our patients — an ideal teaching tool." **Kathy G. Niknejad, MD, Faculty, Harvard Medical School**

"By turns witty, vivid, and harrowing, *Rewriting Illness* reads as though Nora Ephron had written a book called, 'I Feel Bad About My Tumor.'" —**Thomas Beller, *Lost in the Game: A Book About Basketball***

"If you've had cancer, or love someone who's had or has it, or are just plain afraid of it -- that's to say pretty much everyone -- then you'll want to read this book." ~ **Claire Messud, *The Emperor's Children; The Woman Upstairs***

"This memoir is a page-turner. I read Elizabeth Benedict's *Rewriting Illness* in a single sitting and finished it infinitely more knowledgeable about what it means to be diagnosed with cancer . . . . It's the kind of inspiring book you want to share with all the important people in your life." -- **Sigrid Nunez, *What Are You Going Through* and *The Friend***

"(This) beautiful, brave memoir about her own fears, especially fear of illness . . . has so much to say about rational and irrational anxieties and the way they haunt women and deprive us of the larger life we crave."--**Katha Pollitt, *Learning to Drive and Other Life Stories***

"Applying her formidable talents as a novelist to . . . her *annus horribilis* dealing with lymphoma, she writes with an honesty and a sly sense of humor about herself that make this book hard to put down." --**Stephen McCauley, author of *My Ex-Life***

"The moment every woman dread of finding a lump where no lump should be is the jumping off point for Elizabeth Benedict's startling, self-aware, and wickedly funny memoir. . . . It's full of drama, humor, essential lessons for dealing with doctors, crushing vulnerability -- and wonderfully -- plenty of hope." --**Mara Liasson, NPR, National Political Correspondent**

"I truly couldn't put it down. I'm moved and astonished by how she made her cancer story universal, even for someone who is not yet, knock wood, a member of that club." -- **Betsy West, documentary director (*RBG, Julia, Gabby Giffords Won't Back Down*)**

### ABOUT THE BOOK

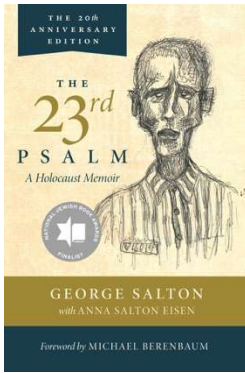
By turns somber and funny but above all provocative, this is a most unconventional memoir. As she discovers multiplying lumps in her armpit, she describes her initial terror, interspersed with moments of self-mocking levity as she indulges in “natural remedies,” among them chanting Tibetan mantras, drinking shots of wheat grass, and finding medicinal properties in chocolate babka. She tracks the progression of her illness from muddled diagnosis to debilitating treatment as she gathers sustenance from her family and an assortment of urbane, ironic friends, including her fearless “cancer guru.” In brief, explosive chapters with startling titles – “Was it the Crazy Glue?” and “Not Everything Scares the Shit out of Me” – Benedict investigates existential questions: Is there a cancer personality? Can trauma be passed on generationally? How do doctors’ own fears influence their comments to patients? Post diagnosis, Benedict asks, “Which fear is worse: the fear of knowing or the reality of knowing? (164)” Benedict’s humor, wisdom, and warmth jacket her fears, but amid weighty concerns and her all-consuming obsession with illness, her story is filled with suspense, secrets, and even the unexpected solace of silence.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Elizabeth Benedict**, a best-selling novelist, journalist, creative writing teacher, editor and writing coach, has published five acclaimed novels including the national bestseller, *Almost*, and the National Book Award finalist, *Slow Dancing*, authored the classic book on writing about sex in fiction, *The Joy of Writing Sex*, in print for 25 years. *31 Women on the Gifts That Mattered Most* (2013); *Mentors, Muses & Monsters: 30 Writers on the People Who Changed Their Lives*; and *Me, My Hair, and I: 27 Women Untangle an Obsession* (2015). She has taught creative writing at Princeton, the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop, and Columbia, and is on the Fiction Faculty at the New York State Summer Writers Institute.

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E-ISBN:9781942134909 / eBook / 204 pages / \$9.99



## The 23rd Psalm: A Holocaust Memoir

by George Salton with Anna Salton Eisen

Foreword by Michael Berenbaum

Finalist for the National Jewish Book Award

**"George Salton's chronicle stands on a pinnacle as one of the most moving and best written memoirs of the Holocaust." Judges Remarks, National Jewish Book Award**

**"A powerful, searing recollection of the past, telling George Salton's story with a fierce integrity that is both descriptive and introspective."—Michael Berenbaum, author of *The World Must Know* and former consultant to Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation Project**

**"This powerful memoir articulates the daily life of a Jew enslaved by the Nazis and forced to do their bidding and obey their every whim in a series of concentration camps."—Murray Baumgarten, Emeritus Professor, University of California, Santa Cruz**

**"This is a book to be read and passed down to our children to read."—Miles Lerman, Holocaust survivor and a founding father of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.**

**"This memoir is among the best I have read ... a must read that belongs in most libraries [for] high school to adult readers."—Martin Goldberg, *Association of Jewish Libraries Newsletter***

### ABOUT THE BOOK

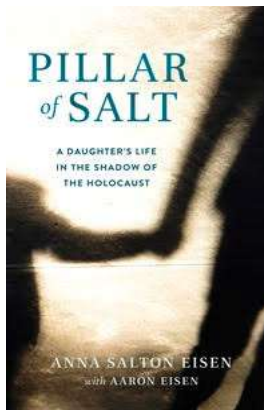
This new and expanded Twentieth Anniversary Edition of the Holocaust memoir of George Salton (then Lucjan Salzman) gives readers a personal and powerful account of his survival through one of the darkest periods in human history. With heartbreaking and honest reflection, the author shares a gripping first-person narrative of his transformation from a Jewish eleven-year-old boy living happily in Tyczyn, Poland with his brother and parents, to his experiences as a teenage victim of growing persecution, brutality and imprisonment as the Nazis pursued the Final Solution. The author takes the reader back in time as he reveals in vivid and engrossing details the painful memories of life in his childhood town during Nazi occupation, the forced march before his jeering and cold-eyed former friends and neighbors as they are driven from their homes into the crowded and terrible conditions in the Rzeszow ghetto, and the heart-wrenching memory of his final farewell as he is separated from his parents who would be sent in boxcars to the Belzec extermination camp. Alone at age 14, George begins a three-year horror filled odyssey as part of a Daimler-Benz slave labor group that will take him through ten concentration camps in Poland, Germany, and France. George recounts the agonizing and excruciating details of what it was like to barely survive the rollcalls, selections, beatings, hunger, and despair he both endured and witnessed. Of the 465 Jewish prisoners with him in the labor group in the Rzeszów ghetto in 1942, less than 50 were alive when the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division liberated the Wobbelin concentration camp on the afternoon of May 2, 1945.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**George Salton** survived ten Nazi concentration camps and emigrated to the United States in 1948. Serving in the U.S. Army as an electronics technician for the Air Force, he met the love of his life, Ruth, also a Holocaust survivor. They married and raised three children, Henry, Alan, and Anna. At evening college classes, he earned a B.A. degree in physics and a MA. degree in electrical engineering from Syracuse University and had a distinguished career with the Department of Defense becoming Director of Defense Communications at the Pentagon. After 35 years of government service, George became an executive in the aerospace industry. Upon retirement, George became a noted author and speaker about his Holocaust experiences. In 2002 George and his daughter, Anna co-wrote his bestselling memoir, *The 23rd Psalm*. He died after a sudden illness at the age of 88 on March 13, 2016.

**Anna Salton Eisen** grew up in a home where her parents' Holocaust experiences were a well-kept secret. Later moving to Texas she became a founding member of the first synagogue in her area. Serving as a docent for the Dallas Holocaust Museum and an interviewer for the Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, Salton Eisen continued to search for information about her family's survival and destruction in the Holocaust. Anna is also author of the forthcoming memoir, *Pillar of Salt: A Daughter's Life Growing Up in the Shadow of the Holocaust* and the subject of a forthcoming new documentary film about her father's life. Salton Eisen and her family reside in Westlake, Texas.

ISBN: 9781942134848 / 240 text pages plus 8-page color insert of photos, artwork, and map / 6 x9 / \$19.95  
E-ISBN: 9781942134855 / 240 text pages plus 8-page color insert of photos, artwork, and map / 6 x9 / \$9.9



**Pillar of Salt: A Daughter's Life in the Shadow of the Holocaust**  
by Anna Salton Eisen and Aaron Eisen

“Readers interested in history will appreciate ‘Pillar of Salt’ for its insights into Jewish life and experience through a devastatingly tragic moment in history.”  
—**The Christian Chronicle**

“Anna’s important exploration of her Holocaust heritage is about building community, building connection, through history, through your family, through your story.” —**Deb Liu, CEO Ancestry.com**

“A vividly colored, elegant study of family dynamics as two generations eventually came to terms with a tragic Holocaust past.” —**Richard Breitman, author of *The Berlin Mission: The American Who Resisted Nazi Germany from Within***

“As we learn from Anna Salton Eisen’s affecting memoir, there is an abyss yawning at the heart . . .with its clear, unadorned recounting of a family’s pain, and of the echoes of the Shoah that continue down through generations, ‘Pillar of Salt’ stands alone as a firsthand account.” —**Jewish Book Council**

“The narrative comes to life as Eisen’s father transforms from never speaking of the Holocaust, to making it his life’s work . . .the relationship between Eisen and her father become the emotional core of the book.” —**Tablet Magazine**

#### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

As the daughter of Holocaust survivors, Anna Salton Eisen's memoir breaks down the barrier of silence that was intended as a protective shield for her parents and their children. From early childhood, Anna, as a second-hand witness to the Holocaust, felt overwhelmed by the unspoken but ever-present trauma of her parents' past. Her father, born as Lucjan Salzman, survivor of ten different concentration camps, is enveloped in impenetrable grief and his history encased in secrecy. But Anna is determined to look backwards, breaking through her father’s reticence to confront the unspoken terrors of the past. The entire Salton family embarks on a journey through Poland unlocking a history sealed in silence and buried by time. The Salton family's quest takes them to the towns where Anna's parents lived as children under Nazi occupation. The family returns to the ghetto where a 15-year-old Lucjan experienced his first selection and bid farewell to his parents before they were herded into a boxcar and sent to their deaths at the Belzec concentration camp. They continue their travels through the picturesque Polish countryside, still pockmarked by the remnants of former concentration camps and a spattering of Holocaust memorials. By the end of her odyssey, Anna acquires a new understanding of her legacy as a child of Holocaust survivors and how trauma is revisited upon subsequent generations. By revisiting those places of trauma with her father as her guide, Anna Salton Eisen's tour of terrors provide her with a new understanding of how her identity has been shaped under the shadow of the Holocaust.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

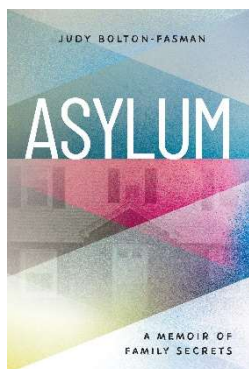
**Anna Salton Eisen** is the co-author of her father’s memoir *The 23rd Psalm: A Holocaust Memoir* (a new expanded edition of this book will be published in fall 2022). An active speaker, Anna is the subject of the documentary film *In My Father’s Words*, recounting the remarkable story of her father and his fellow prisoners who survived ten concentration camps throughout Poland, Germany, and France, and her mission to find their descendants. She lives in Westlake, Texas.

**Aaron Eisen** is a third-generation Jewish writer. Along with co-authoring *Pillar of Salt*, he assisted in the production of *In My Father’s Words*. A resident of Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, Aaron is currently preparing a nonfiction book about the impact of the Holocaust on the humanities in contemporary America

ISBN 9781942134824, 190 text pages plus 8 pages of photos, artwork, and map, 6 x 9, \$19.95  
E-ISBN 9781942134831, 190 text pages plus 8 pages of photos, artwork, and map, 6 x 9, \$9.99

## *Asylum, A Memoir of Family Secrets*

Judy Bolton-Fasman



“A fascinating memoir populated by vivid, complex, and original characters, from whom the writer inherited two languages and several mysteries to unravel and contradictory stories to set straight.... a kind of detective story begun by Bolton-Fasman as a little girl and completed after years of research and reflection. It’s delightful page-turner.”—**Anita Diamant** author of *The Red Tent* and *Boston Girl*

“*Asylum* has enough passion, family secrets, and political intrigue to keep even the most jaded memoir reader on the edge of his seat. But what carried me along was the warmth, precision, and gentle humor of Judy Bolton’s writing”.—**Stephen McCauley** author of *The Object of My Affection* and the upcoming *My Ex-Life*

“Judy Bolton-Fasman is a brilliant detective, searching for answers about her father both the world and in her own heart. This book is true to its name....A stunning meditation on grief and secrets--finely observed, beautifully written. —**Gayle Brandeis** author of *The Art of Misdiagnosis: Surviving My Mother’s Suicide*

“Most children are spies, trying to uncover and decipher clues as to who their parents really are. But very few children discover their *parents* are spies. Real spies. In *Asylum*, Judy Bolton-Fasman proves herself to be the cleverest, most perceptive, and most compassionate of detectives, solving the mystery of her father’s secret life in South America and her parents’ troubled marriage. A deeply moving, beautifully written, original story of family and faith, passion and mourning, betrayal, and love.”  
—**Eileen Pollack** author of *A Perfect Life* and *The Only Woman in the Room: Why Science is Still a Boy’s Club*

“In this tender, poetic, and suspense-filled memoir, Judy Bolton-Fasman examines the gaps in her parents’ pasts, trying to unlock the essential mystery of her life: her father. His enigmatic presence haunts the pages of her vivid and unflinching portrait of a family burdened with secrets and colliding cultures.”—**Hadassah Magazine**

### ABOUT THE BOOK

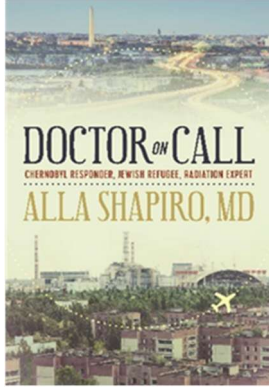
How much do we really know about the lives of our parents and the secrets lodged in their past? Judy Bolton-Fasman’s fascinating saga recounts the search for answers to the mysteries embedded in the lives of her Cuban-born mother, Matilde Alboukrek Bolton and her elusive, Yale-educated father, K. Harold Bolton. In the prefatory chapter, “Burn This,” Judy receives a thick letter from her father and conjectures that the contents will reveal the long-hidden explanations, confessions, and secrets that will unlock her father’s cryptic past. As she is about to open the portal to her father’s “*transtienidas*,” his dark hidden secrets, Harold Bolton phones Judy and instructs her to burn the still unopened letter. With the flick of a match, Judy ignites her father’s unread documents, effectively destroying the answers to long held questions that surround her parents’ improbable marriage and their even more secretive lives.

Judy Bolton embarks on the life-long exploration of her bifurcated ancestry; Judy inherits a Sephardic, Spanish/Ladino-speaking culture from her mother and an Ashkenazi, English-only, old-fashioned American patriotism from her father. Amid the Bolton household’s cultural, political, and psychological confusion, Judy is mystified by her father’s impenetrable silence; and, similarly confounded by her mother’s fabrications, not the least of which involve rumors of a dowry pay-off and multiple wedding ceremonies for the oddly mismatched 40-year-old groom and the 24-year-old bride. Contacting former associates, relatives, and friends; accessing records through the Freedom of Information Act; traveling to Cuba to search for clues, and even reciting the Mourner’s Kaddish for a year to gain spiritual insight into her father; these decades-long endeavors do not always yield the answers Judy wanted and sometimes the answers themselves lead her to ask new questions. Readers will relish every step and stage of Judy’s investigations and will begin to share in her obsession to obtain answers to the mysteries that have haunted her life. The suspense, the clairvoyant prophecies, the discoveries, the new leads, the dead-ends, the paths not taken—all capture our attention in this absorbing and fascinating memoir.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Judy Bolton-Fasman**, award-winning writer whose work appears regularly in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Forward*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *JewishBoston.com* and other venues. She has contributed to literary magazines such as *Catapult*, *Brevity*, *the Rumpus*, *Superstition Review*, *Atticus Review*, and *McSweeney’s*. Her writing has appeared in the anthologies *The Shell Game: Writers Play with Borrowed Forms* and *(Her)oics: Women’s Lived Experiences During the Coronavirus Pandemic*. Bolton-Fasman is a contributor to *WBUR/NPR’S essay page*, [Cognoscenti](http://Cognoscenti), where she has written about her Latinx heritage.

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ISBN: 9781942134787 E-Book / 240 pages/ 9 B& W Photographs / \$14.95



## **DOCTOR ON CALL**

### **Chernobyl Responder, Jewish Refugee, Radiation Expert**

**by Alla Shapiro, M.D., Ph.D.**

“There needs to be strong communication not only within the country, but amongst international communities. So much depends on our preparedness, and so many deaths could’ve been avoided at Chernobyl. And the same with Covid-19. The former Soviet Union didn’t know how to prepare for such a disaster. The United States did know how to prepare but failed to do it.” **Jennifer Nalewicksi, The Smithsonian Magazine, April 27, 2021**

“Mikhail Gorbachev called the Chernobyl disaster the real cause of the collapse of the Soviet Union. The silence and secrecy from Soviet officials defined the aftermath of the explosion. Government officials, instead of scientists were providing the information. Shapiro says the government’s role in “downplaying disaster” and “telling lies Ultimately propelled the tragedy--something many with lingering illnesses are still reeling today.” **Peter O’Dowd and Serena McMahon, WBUR Here and Now**

“Her experiences as an immigrant will resonate with readers and serve as a timely rejection of xenophobia. Those eager to learn more about life in the Soviet Union or the Chernobyl disaster will uncover many absorbing details in this book. Those looking for an inspirational read won’t be disappointed, either.” **Anne Blankman, Jewish Book Council**

“Alla Shapiro took me along on her odyssey, from the Soviet Union to the streets of Washington, DC, from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster to the COVID-19.” —**Boris Lushniak, MD, MPH Dean and Professor, University of Maryland School of Public Health**

“This memoir gives strength to the human spirit and brings important lessons to keep in mind as we face potential untold consequences from other disasters to come.”—**Nelson Chao, MD, MBA Donald D. and Elizabeth G. Cooke Professor, Duke University**

This ground level, personal account of the Chernobyl catastrophe by a Ukrainian pediatrician is a riveting, fast read... The relevance of Dr. Shapiro's story to today's COVID-19 pandemic and to potential future radiation accidents, malicious use of radioactive materials and nuclear war, is highlighted in the last chapters of the book...this is a must read.” —**Nicholas Dainiak MD, FACP, Clinical Professor Department of Therapeutic Radiology, Yale University School of Medicine**

“Dr. Shapiro chronicles her life in a country that discriminated against women and Jews and yet rises above it to be a hero, a physician, a scientist and a wonderful mother. From the worst nuclear disaster to a pandemic, Dr. Shapiro reveals that governments that were not prepared and lessons were not learned. Her story is emotional, inspiring, and thought provoking. It is a must read for everyone.” — **Laurie E. Sower, Ph.D., Chrysalis BioTherapeutics, Inc.**

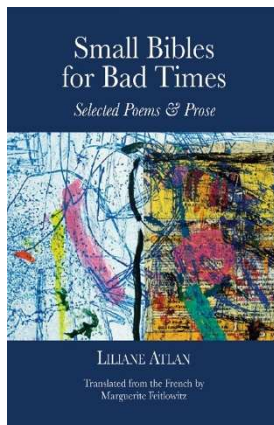
“The story of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster from the eyes of a young Jewish mother who was both a victim of systemic anti-Semitism in a male-dominated autocratic Soviet Republic and a compassionate responder to the medical and emotional needs of so many lives forever changed by the radiation catastrophe.... History comes alive in this compelling autobiography of one of America’s acclaimed experts in treatment of radiation injury and research into radiation countermeasures.”— **L. Andrew Huff, MD, MPH; former Director of the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute**

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR & THE BOOK**

**Dr. Alla Shapiro** was a first physician-responder to the worst nuclear disaster in history: the explosion at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in Ukraine on April 26, 1986. Without instructions or protective clothing. Dr. Shapiro treated traumatized children, triaged and rendered first aid. The Soviet government worsened matters by spreading misinformation. First responders were ordered to participate in the deception of the public. This bureaucratic cover-up combined with decades of personal and professional discrimination that she endured as a Jewish citizen of the USSR, led Dr. Shapiro and her family to immigrate to the United States in the late 1980s. the Shapiro family travelled to Vienna, Austria, and then to Italy, where they remained for six months awaiting permission to enter the United States. After her arrival in the US, Alla Shapiro successfully passed the exams for foreign-trained medical graduates. After a pediatric residency at Georgetown University followed by three-year fellowship in pediatric hematology- oncology at National Institute of Health, Dr. Shapiro worked at the US Food and Drug Administration from 2003 to 2019, first reviewing applications submitted by pharmaceutical companies, and later for the FDA’s Counterterrorism and Disaster Readiness Unit, she developed safe and effective medical countermeasures (MCM) against chemical, radiological, and nuclear threats. Motivated by her experiences as a physician-responder at Chernobyl, Dr. Alla Shapiro is one of the world’s leading experts in medical countermeasures against radiation exposure.

ISBN: 9781942134732/ Paper with Flaps/ \$24.95/ 240 pages/ 22 B& W Photographs, 5.5 x 9

ISBN: 9781942134749/ eBook/ \$14.99/ 240 pages/ 22 B& W Photographs, 5.5 x 9



## ***Small Bibles for Bad Times: Selected Poems and Prose***

By *Liliane Atlan*

(A Bilingual French-English Edition)

Translated and introduced by **Marguerite Feitlowitz**

**A Mandel Vilar Press and Dryad Press Co-Publication**

**An important literary voice focusing on the psychological impact of the Holocaust**

“Liliane Atlan writes both prose and poetry with the beauty and brilliance of lyric, the bite of epigram, the passion of an idealist fighting to survive in a brutal world. In the colloquies of great poets held in the next world, I imagine her seated with her peers — perhaps at a table with Kafka, Bob Dylan and Emily Dickinson. Having her work in this bilingual edition, with Marguerite Feitlowitz’s elegant translations, is a valuable gift to the English-speaking world of experimental literature.” *Alicia Ostriker*, the author of *The Volcano and After: Selected and New Poems, 2002-2019*.

“Liliane Atlan’s poems are as personal as dreams and as public as history. Wry, spare, flickering with wit, they are also resonant, authoritative, weighted with centuries of what Atlan calls ‘the wisdom that is not inscribed,’ that ‘makes written notes inexhaustible.’” *Rachel Hadas*, the author of *Poems for Camilla*.

### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

FOR LILIANE ATLAN (1932-2012), visionary French writer of plays, poetry, and prose, the creative quest was to “find language to say the unsayable. . . to [find a way] to integrate within our conscience, without dying in the attempt, the shattering experience of Auschwitz.” Having spent the war years as a child in hiding, she then studied at the groundbreaking Gilbert Bloch school where she was immersed in Torah, Talmud and Kabbalah, alongside science and contemporary literature. She emerged from her into a genre-defying, feminist, and political writer, active in both France and Israel.

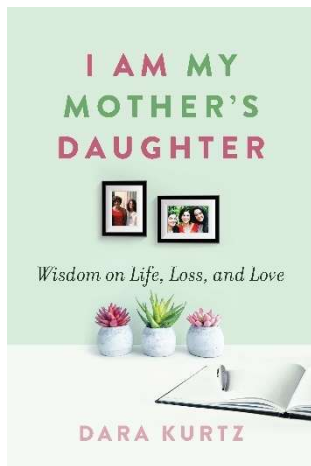
Atlan defies easy categorization: she’s “a “Jewish writer,” “a Holocaust writer,” an originator of *l’écriture féminine*, and a pioneering theatre artist, one of the first (in the early 1980s) to experiment with video, sound, and spatial technology. Her poetry and prose comprise a large, important part of her oeuvre and the texts and are published here in English for the first time, translated by Marguerite Feitlowitz.

From murderous history, Atlan wrested a body of work that is radiant with life. When Liliane died in Israel in 2012, she engraved on her tombstone her final wish: “*The one I used to be no longer exists. But her light shines again. What light? The fight for love in spite of human horror.*” This new translation of her work resurrects her voice anew and helps insure her legacy for future generations.

### **ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR**

**MARGUERITE FEITLOWITZ** is the author of *A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture*, a *New York Times* Notable Book and Finalist for the PEN-Winship Prize, Feitlowitz has also translated, from the Spanish, the work of Griselda Gambaro, Luisa Valenzuela, Salvador Novo, and Ennio Moltedo. Her many awards include two Fulbright’s to Argentina, a Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute Fellowship (now the Radcliffe Institute), and a 2020 NEA Literary Translation Fellowship. She teaches at Bennington College where she is the Founding Director of Bennington Translates, a multi-disciplinary initiative on literary and humanitarian translation in the context of forced displacement, exile, and collective crisis.

ISBN: 9781942134688 Trade paper with flaps /\$21.95 / 5.5 X 9 / 176pp / 8 B&W Photos



# I Am My Mother's Daughter

## Wisdom on Life, Loss, and Love

by Dara Kurtz

Jewish mother, daughter, cancer survivor, Dara Kurtz shares her *Crazy Perfect Life*

“Readers will be moved to think with intention and purpose and make mindful decisions that can positively impact and strengthen their relationships for the rest of their lives.” —**Rachel Macy Stafford**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Live Love Now*, *Hands Free Mama*, and *Only Love Today*

“This book will help you take an honest look at the landscape of your life, what you truly want, and then help you figure out how to get it. It’s the chance to hit the reset button.” —**Erin Falconer**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *How to Get Sh\*t Done*

“Reminiscent of spending time with your own long-lost relatives, Dara Kurtz’s book is a beautiful story of love, loss and generational knowledge. This book and the stories in it are treasures for readers of any faith.” —**Catherine Pearlman**, PhD, author of *Ignore It: How Selectively Looking the Other Way Can Decrease Behavioral Problems and Increase Parenting Satisfaction*

“If you’re ready to make changes in your own life and relationships, but you don’t know how to start, this is the book for you.” —**Karin Hehenberger**, MD, PhD, CEO, and Founder of Lyfebulb

“Dara isn’t afraid to admit her mistakes or own her past. She shows us we can’t be truly happy until we’re honest and accepting of ourselves. This is both refreshing and inspiring.” —**Maimah Karmo**, Founder of Tigerlily Foundation

“This book is full of relevant wisdom to help you grow your relationships and create the life of your dreams.” —**Lyndsay Morris**, Founder of Generation Wellness

### ABOUT THE BOOK

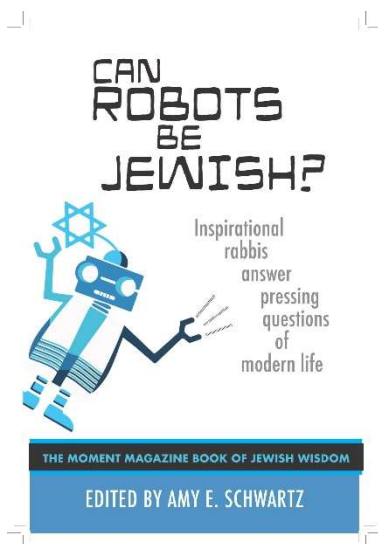
When Dara Kurtz was twenty-eight years old, her mother died of cancer. This loss, and the loss of her grandmothers, was so painful that for decades she was afraid to re-read their letters to her, which she kept in a ziploc bag at the bottom of a drawer. Meanwhile, she went on with her life as a wife and mother—and later on a cancer survivor herself. One day, longing for contact with the strong Jewish women who had loved and raised her, she re-read the letters. They brought back beautiful family memories and taught her many life lessons; they caused her to reflect on the priceless love between mothers and daughters and how wisdom and traditions can be passed on from one generation to the next. Dara’s story inspires us to strengthen the bonds between mothers and daughters, to remember family traditions, to let go of the pain of loss, and to make the most of each day of our lives.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**DARA KURTZ**, after being diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of forty-two, left her twenty-year career as a personal banker and financial advisor to focus on writing, speaking, and podcasting. Today her personal blog, *Crazy Perfect Life* ([www.crazyperfectlife.com](http://www.crazyperfectlife.com)), reaches over 200,000 followers. Dara is the author of two books, *Crush Cancer: Personal Enlightenment from a Cancer Survivor* and *Crush Cancer Workbook*. Dara’s goal is to use her life experiences to help people strengthen their relationships and create more happiness and joy in their everyday lives.

ISBN: 9781942134657 / Paper with Flaps / 224 pages / 5.5 x 9 / Price: \$24.95

ISBN: 9781942134664 / eBook / 224 pages / 5.5 x 9 / Price: \$12.99



## Can Robots be Jewish? & Other Pressing Questions of Modern Life

By Amy E. Schwartz  
Foreword by Rabbi Irving “Yitz” Greenberg  
Afterword by Rabbi Shira Stutman

MomentBooks Imprint

A smart, hip, and provocative book for anyone interested in the rich diversity of Jewish thought on contemporary questions.

“A celebration of the ongoing vitality of the Jewish encounter with modernity, of the shared religious language that persists across denominations, of the spiritual power of *machloket l’shem Shamayim*, argument for the sake of Heaven. No matter where you position yourself on the Jewish spectrum, this book is a gift.”—Yossi Klein Halevi, author of *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*

“The old joke—‘two Jews, three opinions’—turns out to vastly understate the reality. This wonderful book shows the breadth of Jewish thinking in a way that brings wisdom and humor to vexing questions. It focuses not on doctrine or ritual but on how to live as good Jews in a rapidly changing world. Who ever thought a collection of essays on ethical dilemmas could be a page-turner?”—Steven Waldman, author of *Sacred Liberty: America’s Long, Bloody and Ongoing Struggle for Religious Freedom*

“Fresh, delectable, to be consumed in nibbles or in one rapturous sitting. . . . *Can Robots Be Jewish?* is the chocolate babka of books, leavened with pulpit humor and dusted with divine crumbs of timeless wisdom.”—Laura Blumenfeld, author of *Revenge: A Story of Hope and daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter and great-great-granddaughter of rabbis*

“Ten very different spiritual leaders answer each Big Question with clarity, profundity, occasional levity, and a palpable love for Jewish tradition. My favorite answer is Rabbi Yitz Greenberg’s hilarious response to “Can robots be Jewish?,” which, alone, is worth the price of the book.”—Letty Cottin Pogrebin, author of *Deborah, Golda, and Me: Being Female and Jewish in America*

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Should we edit our children’s genes? Are there things that cannot be forgiven? Are Jews still expecting a messiah? Is Judaism good for women? What does Judaism say about love? Are we commanded to vote? Is democracy a Jewish idea? Does Jewish law forbid racism? Is silence consent? What sins should we atone for in our use of social media? When does life begin? Do Jews believe in an afterlife? Can robots be Jewish? In this book, rabbis spanning the range of modern Jewish thought, from Humanist and Reform to Orthodox and beyond, consider these difficult questions of our time and many others. Sometimes they agree—but not often.

You do not have to be a scholar to follow these lively, accessible voices. They offer intelligent discussion of topics both timely and timeless, deep interrogation of Jewish text, law and commentary and an unparalleled look at the breadth, creativity, and continued relevance of the Jewish tradition.

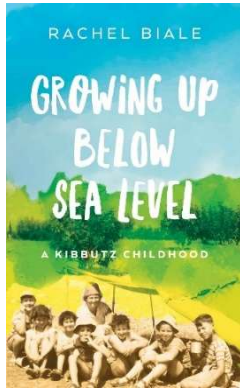
### ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Amy E. Schwartz** is Moment Magazine’s opinion and book editor, and editor of its popular “Ask the Rabbis” section. Schwartz was a longtime editorial writer and op-ed columnist at *The Washington Post*, covering education, science, and culture. She has also worked at *Harper’s*, *The New Republic* and *The Wilson Quarterly*. She is president of the non-denominational Jewish Study Center in Washington, DC and speaks and runs workshops on topics of Jewish commentary, psalms, and literature nationwide.

**Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg**, president of the Hadar Institute’s J.J. Greenberg Institute for the Advancement of Jewish Life, is the author of *The Jewish Way*, *Sage Advice: Pirkei Avot* and the forthcoming *The Triumph of Life*. He was chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council and founding president of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership.

**Rabbi Shira Stutman**, senior rabbi at Sixth & I in Washington, DC, rabbi-in-residence for the Jewish Federations of North America, and on the faculty of the Wexner Foundation’s Heritage Program, was named one of America’s Most Inspiring Rabbis by *The Forward* and was spotlighted as a Woman to Watch by Jewish Women International.

ISBN: 9781942134671/ Paper with Flaps/ \$24.95/ 288 pages/ 6 x 9



## **Growing Up Below Sea Level A Kibbutz Childhood**

**By Rachel Biale**

“Biale’s book is not only a work of history and autobiography, but also a lens through which to view how profoundly Israel has changes since then.”—**Jonathan Kirsch, Los Angeles Jewish Journal**

Rachel Biale’s fresh and vivid stories of her kibbutz childhood, raised in the biblical landscape of the Jordan River by European-born parents who barely fled the Nazis, are pulsating with love and insight into early kibbutz life. -- **Fania Oz-Salzberger, scholar raised on a kibbutz, co-author with her father, Amos Oz, of *Jews and Words***

A remarkable, haunting remembrance of worlds which are no more - the youthful world of Rachel Biale’s parents in Holocaust-era Europe, and that of her own childhood within the collectivist kibbutz of the 1950s and 60s  
-- **Bradley Burston, Haaretz columnist**

Bob Dylan, Boris Johnson, Annie Leibovitz, Helen Mirren and Jerry Seinfeld? All volunteered on Israel's unique creation - the kibbutz. This memoir is a poignant mix of secrets and survival, love and loss. -- **Donna Rosenthal, journalist, kibbutz volunteer, author of *The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land***

Rachel Biale’s lovely and deliberately modest book reveals one girl's story, where communal solidarity consoles the adults—Holocaust refugees—and cultivates her growth within and sometimes against the collective's struggle for its own existence. -- **Bernard Avishai, columnist for *The New Yorker*, author of *The Tragedy of Zionism***

### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

Rachel Biale’s memoir of growing up on a kibbutz—juxtaposed with an account of her parents’ flight from the Holocaust—tells the quintessential story of Israel in the most intimate terms. She begins her memoir with a description of how her parents got to Israel and wound up on a kibbutz. Born four years after the state of Israel came into being, Rachel’s memoir continues with 24 stories that span her childhood -- from her earliest memories at age three to her departure from Israel to America at age twenty.

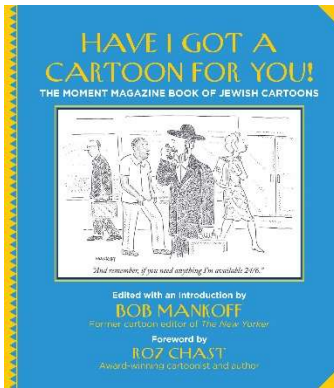
While these stories focus on the world of children, they also offer a window into the lives of the adult kibbutz members, including dark shadows of the Holocaust. Her relationship with her parents also animates many of these stories. Rachel’s parents lived on the kibbutz all their lives, but soon realized that no community could live up to its utopian ideals on a day-to-day basis.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Rachel Biale** was raised on Kibbutz Kfar Ruppin. After her IDF service, she completed her university education in the U.S. She is the author of *Women and Jewish Law* (1984), several illustrated children’s books, and *What Now? 2-Minute Tips for Solving Common Parenting Challenges* (2020), based on her clinical social work practice. She is also a calligrapher and illuminator of *ketubot*, Jewish marriage contracts.

ISBN: 9781942134633 / Paper with Flaps/ 240 pages/ 5.5 x 9 / Price: \$19.95

ISBN: 9781942134649/ E-book / 240 pages/ 5.5 x 9 / Price: \$9.99



# Have I Got a Cartoon for You! The Moment Magazine Book of Jewish Cartoons

Selected and Introduced by **Bob Mankoff**

Foreword by **Roz Chast**

Silver Medal Winner, Foreword Reviews Magazine  
Indie Books of the Year

A MomentBook Imprint

Everyone thinks of Jews as suave, handsome, effortless athletes. But this wonderful book shows they're funny too. Who knew? — **Mike Reiss**, writer and producer, *The Simpsons*

"Cartoons. Jews. Bob Mankoff. Roz Chast. What's not to love?" — **Andy Borowitz**, author of *The Borowitz Report* at *The New Yorker*

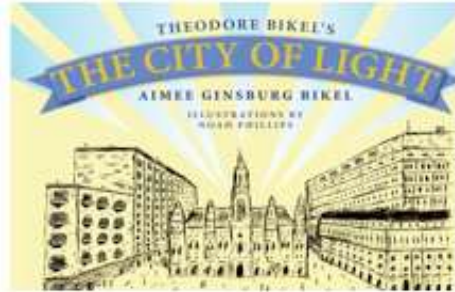
## ABOUT THE BOOK

Former Cartoon and Humor Editor for both *Esquire* & *The New Yorker* magazines, Bob Mankoff collects his favorite Jewish cartoons, and writes an introduction on the place of cartoons in the vibrant history of Jewish humor, and plumbs Jewish thought, wisdom and *shtick* for humorous insights.

Mankoff has written: "I always think that it's strange that the Jews, The People of the Book, eventually became much better known as The People of the Joke. Strange because laughter in the Old Testament is not a good thing: When God laughs, you're toast. If you say, "Stop me if you've heard this one," he does for good. If there is any influence Jewish culture has on my cartoons about religion, it's the disputatiousness of the that culture, the questioning everything just for the hell of it and then the questioning of the questioning to be even more annoying. When, I was first dating my wife, who is not Jewish, we once were having what I thought was an ordinary conversation and she said, "Why are you arguing with me?" I replied, "I'm not arguing, I'm Jewish." I thought that was clever. She didn't. Some humor scholars claim this stems from the practice in the Talmud of *pilpul*, which Leo Rosten described as "unproductive hair-splitting that is employed not so much to radiate clarity ... as to display one's own cleverness..." I go along with that except I like to think that some clarity and cleverness are not mutually exclusive. Anyway, that's my aim in cartoons like these. Now, am I worried that these jokes would bring His wrath down upon me down with a bolt from the blue. Not really, but every time there's a thunderstorm, I hide in the cellar."

**ABOUT THE EDITOR.** **Bob Mankoff** began submitting cartoons to the *New Yorker Magazine* in 1974. Three years and over 2,000 cartoons later, he finally made the magazine and eventually became Cartoon Editor publishing over 950 cartoons. His story and day-to-day at the magazine were the focus of the 2015 [HBO documentary \*Very Semi-Serious\*](#). In addition to appearances on [60 Minutes](#) and [Charlie Rose](#), Bob was the host of *New Yorker* web series "[The Cartoon Lounge](#)." In 2014 he published his *New York Times* bestselling memoir [How About Never – Is Never Good For You?: My Life In Cartoons](#). Most recently, he edited the massive two-volume [The New Yorker Encyclopedia of Cartoons: A Semi-serious A-to-Z Archive](#).

ISBN: 9781942134596 MomentBooks Imprint/ Paper with Flaps / 7 x 8/ 104 pp/ \$19.95



## The City of Light

By Theodore Bikel and Aimee Ginsburg Bikel

with Illustrations by Noah Phillips

A MomentBook Imprint

Silver Medal Winner, Foreword Reviews Magazine Indie Books of the Year  
Stepping Stones Magazine, Honor Award, Best Children's Book

An important episode in Theodore Bikel's young life is retold by his widow, Aimee Ginsburg Bikel who, with the help of artist Noah Phillips, transforms it into an illustrated children's book relating a young Theo's first encounters with Antisemitism and Antisemitic violence in his childhood hometown of Vienna, shortly after the Nazi annexation of Austria in 1937-1938. The tale foreshadows the horrors of the Holocaust but does so without confronting their young readers with its atrocities. In this way they manage to open a difficult conversation about events in Jewish history that will only be revealed in fully when these young readers are much older.

In a Letter from Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to Aimee Bikel dated Nov. 15, 2019, she wrote: "Dear Aimee: *City of Light* just arrived. I set aside Court work and read it immediately. It is a story beautifully told, one important for today's children to know, a warning against letting darkness take hold."

Similarly, longtime friend of Theo and Aimee, Peter Yarrow of the famous Folk Singing Group, Peter, Paul, and Mary after reading this book wrote: "Aimee Ginsburg Bikel's shaping and sharing of her beloved late husband, Theo Bikel's tale of what he experienced as a little boy during the rise, and then explosion, of hatred that preceded the Holocaust, is a beautiful, painfully powerful and great gift. It is particularly meaningful in this time of mushrooming anti-Semitism, hatred and bigotry of every sort, worldwide. It is a riveting tale, made even more meaningful by the shocking rise of anti-Semitism, in all forms of bigotry, right here and right now."

And reviewer Aaron Leibel wrote in **The Jerusalem Post**: "If in the past I have ever called a book beautiful, I realize after reading *The City of Lights* that I may have been too profligate with my praise. This work for children may be the realization of that often-overused word; it is a very moving story, an excellent way to introduce youngsters to the Holocaust.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:** Following *Kristallnacht*, 'The Night of Broken Glass,' A young Theo Bikel strolls through Vienna and witnesses acts of Anti-Semitism and Antisemitic violence during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. At night he dreams of a superhero, Judah Maccabee, defending Vienna's Jews. When he awakes, he knows there will be no Maccabean rescue and he weeps. Years pass, the boy, now an old man, returns to Vienna and sees the Jewish community and the Temple have been restored. He looks for the eternal light in his Temple and can't find it. Then suddenly it becomes clear to him: 'The light was there all the time! it was in his own heart. First appearing as a story in *Moment Magazine*, it was read aloud on *NPR's Hanukkah Lights* by hosts Susan Stamberg and Murray Horwitz. It can now be read and appreciated by all readers, ages 10 and up in a new and expanded version with a foreword, Postscript, Recipe, glossary, and sheet-music of Theo's favorite Hanukkah song (with link to sites where you can hear Theo singing it).

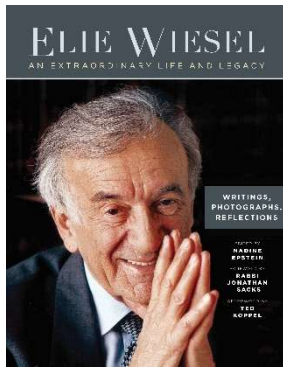
### ABOUT THE AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATOR

**Theodore Bikel**, Hollywood and Broadway actor, was known for his roles in *My Fair Lady*, *The Defiant Ones*, and a guest star on many popular television series such as *Twilight Zone*, *Star Trek*, *Wagon Train*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *Columbo*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Gunsmoke*, *Dynasty*, and *All in the Family*. He received many awards in his life including an Academy Award Nomination and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

**Aimee Ginsburg Bikel**, a writer, journalist, public speaker, and community organizer, served as the senior correspondent in India for Israel's daily, *Yedioth Ahronoth*, for 17 years. As director of the Theodore Bikel Legacy Project she is active in causes that were close to her and Theo's heart: social justice, peace and Jewish folk culture.

**Noah Phillips**, a Brooklyn-based writer and illustrator, his artwork has appeared in magazines, newspapers and a book of children's stories called *The Three Chickens and Five Other Stories*.

ISBN: 9781942134619 / 8 x 6 / 64 pp / Ages 10 to 92 / Hardcover / \$16.95



# Elie Wiesel, An Extraordinary Life and Legacy--Writings, Photographs, Reflections

**Nadine Epstein, editor**

**Foreword by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks & Afterword by Ted Koppel**

This book is the first publication of *MomentBooks*, a new trade imprint of Mandel Vilar Press—a series of co-publications of *Moment Magazine* and Mandel Vilar Press.

“Elie Wiesel taught us that we must not forget; that there is no greater sin than that of silence and indifference. In doing so he has not just illuminated the past; he’s illuminated the future.”—**Oprah Winfrey**

“Elie Wiesel performed the alchemy of converting pain, injustice and horror into love, compassion, and tolerance. We remember him not so much because he so often succeeded but because he never stopped trying.”—**Ted Koppel**

“Elie Wiesel was the Jewish people’s spokesperson. He looked after our moral landscape and paid attention to what happened to Jews around the world. We needed a person like that.”—**Itzhak Perlman**

“I believe there is a risk of Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust and other genocides being forgotten. Without a real effort to retain their memory, they may simply disappear from history. Wiesel was the light in the night for the whole world, not just the Jewish one.”—**Father Patrick Desbois**

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Elie Wiesel (1928-2016) is best known as the author of *Night*, a survivor of Auschwitz and a powerful, enduring voice of the Holocaust. A recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, he was a hero of human rights, beloved professor and author of more than 50 books. Among his accomplishments, Wiesel co-founded *Moment Magazine* with Leonard Fein in 1975 to be a place of conversation for American Jews, for editor-in-chief Nadine Epstein, he became a mentor and friend after she took over the magazine in 2004.

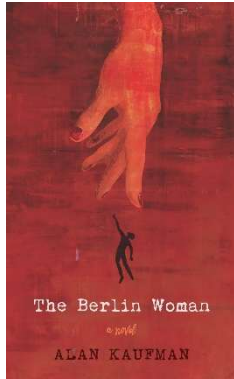
In this striking volume, Epstein shares her memories of Wiesel and brings together 36 reflections from friends, colleagues, and others who knew him—including his son Elisha Wiesel, Michael Berenbaum, Wolf Blitzer, Father Patrick Desbois, Ben Kingsley, Ronald S. Lauder, Bernard-Henri Levy, Kati Marton, Itzhak Perlman, Natan Sharansky, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Oprah Winfrey and Ruth Wisse. The foreword is by world famous British Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and the Afterword is by acclaimed broadcaster Ted Koppel.

To celebrate this humanitarian and keep his inspiration alive, Epstein presents readers with a visual history of Wiesel’s life and examines the influence of his seminal book, *Night*. This chilling story of the Holocaust has already gripped the souls of millions of readers. To reinforce this legacy, Epstein provides lively conversations with teenagers about *Night* and offers discussion questions.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR

**Nadine Epstein**, an award-winning journalist and author, is editor-in-chief and CEO of *Moment Magazine*. Author of *RGB’s Brave & Brilliant Women: 33 Jewish Women to Inspire Everyone*

ISBN: 9781942134572/ Paper with Flaps/ \$35.00/ 176 pages/ 8 x 11/ 117 Color and B&W photos



## The Berlin Woman, A Novel

by Alan Kaufman

**Fast-paced, written in contagious gonzo style, this new kind of no-holds barred love story makes for binge-worthy compulsive reading.**

“A man was asked if he was a survivor of the Holocaust. His answer: there were no survivors. This, for me, is one of the themes of this amazing book, along with the question: is love possible in a world where people commit horrendous acts of evil? *The Berlin Woman* is exquisitely written, sometimes funny, mostly terrible, always human. The narrator, Nathan Falk, is so damaged that he is literally trapped inside his psyche like a patient in a padded

cell. In his delusional existence, he attributes the pathology of the perpetrators of the Holocaust to all human endeavor. It would be easier to deny the truth of this, if it weren't happening again.”—**Goodreads.com**

“He’s not neat, he’s not careful... But there’s more passion here than you see in twenty other books combined.”—**Dave Eggers, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius***

“Kaufman’s unique voice, by turns manic and wretched, is always intoxicated with language... combines Kerouac’s wide-eyed discovery...and Henry Miller’s resolve to throw open the doors of private lives.” **James Sullivan, *San Francisco Chronicle***

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Alan Kaufman’s latest novel, **The Berlin Woman** is a haunting love story about two Second Generation Holocaust writers who meet at a literary conference in the Swiss Alps and fall into a mad kind of addictive love affair. A Ukrainian now living in Berlin, Lena is a married, chronically unfaithful, and devoted only to gratifying her ambitions and hard-driving libido. Nathan is a footloose womanizing American author, unable to produce the big novel for which he’s been contracted. They chase each other selfishly, sexually and even digitally across Europe and America, turning their affair into a high-stakes reckless game of jealousy, rivalling ambitions, gender conflict, political combat and artistic outrage. But beneath it all, their hearts are breaking, dark secrets haunt their pasts, while overshadowing their love is a fast-changing, ruthless world in which Anti-Semitism is burgeoning, The Holocaust is denied or forgotten and a new kind of totalitarianism -- spearheaded by a new breed of “strongmen” leaders -- threatens to sweep Lena, Nathan, and all of humanity, to the very brink of annihilation.

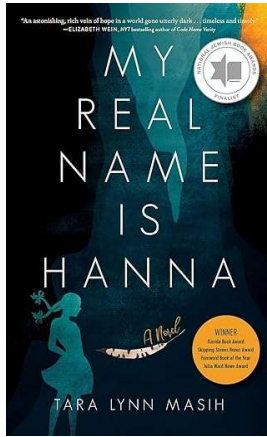
**Warning: Due to explicit sexual scenes in this book, it is not suitable reading for children or young adults.**

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Alan Kaufman**, poet, editor, writer, and painter was born and raised in the Bronx, earning a BA at City College of New York. In 1977 he moved to Israel, where he served in the Israel Defense Forces. After studying fiction in the MFA program at Columbia University, he relocated to San Francisco, where he helped build the community of performance poets at Cafe Babar and participated in the 1993 San Francisco Poets Strike. In addition to his involvement with the Spoken Word community, Kaufman has also been a central figure in the Jewish countercultural movement, co-editing *It's the Jews! A Celebration of New Jewish Visions* (1995, with Danny Shot) and editing the magazine *Davka: Jewish Cultural Revolution*. He is the author of the poetry collection *Who Are We?* (1998), the novel *Matches* (2005) and the memoirs *Jew Boy* (2000) and *Drunken Angel* (2013). His reviews appear widely in journals such as the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Partisan Review*. Kaufman is also the editor of *The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry* (1999, co-edited with S.A. Griffin) and *The Outlaw Bible of American Literature* (2004, co-edited with Barney Rosset and Neil Ortenberg).

ISBN: 9781942134589 / Paper with Flaps / 6 x 9 | 208 pp / Price: US \$16.95 | CAN \$23.50

ISBN: 9781942134626 / eBook / 6 x 9 / 208 pp/ Price: \$9.99



# My Real Name is Hanna

by Tara Lynn Masih

**Finalist National Jewish Book Award—Young Adult Fiction 2019**  
**Florida Book Awards (Bronze 2022/Gold 2018)**  
**Winner of the Julia Ward Howe Award 2019 for Young Readers**  
**Foreword Indie Book of the Year Awards: 2018, Gold Winner for**  
**Historical Adult Fiction and finalist in Young Adult Fiction**  
**Skipping Stones Magazine Honor Award Winner of a 2018**

“Masih effortlessly integrates the nuances of both Jewish and Ukrainian folklore, even as she creates a world in which small acts of kindness become feats of courage.” --**Gloria Goldreich, Hadassah Magazine**

“A brilliantly rendered memorial to survivors of the Holocaust. VERDICT A strong choice for Young Adult shelves.” **School Library Journal**

“A carefully researched, often moving narrative of one family’s struggle for survival.” --**Kirkus Reviews**

“Poetic and vivid. To strong effect, the loveliness of Hanna's thoughts counters the ever-present dangers of what she faces” --**Foreword Reviews, Editor’s Pick**

“With the continuing surfeit of WWII fiction, it is refreshing to find an original voice that delivers such a harrowing, yet inspiring message . . . [a] highly readable, affecting novel.” --**Historical Novels Review**

“Masih creates in Hanna creates a strong and inspiring young female protagonist. . . It’s a haunting and hopeful work that deserves a broad audience. And at this particularly divisive time when fear and intolerance is constantly crowding the headlines, this book offers seeds of compassion to young and experienced readers alike.”--**Small Press Book Review**

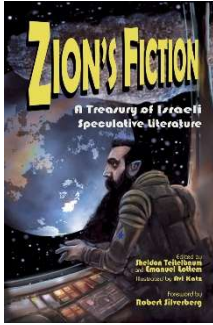
““Hanna’s story . . . uncovers an astonishing, rich vein of hope in a world gone utterly dark. Both timeless and timely.”  
--**Elizabeth Wein, New York Times bestselling author of Code Name Verity**

A powerful, revelatory leap of imagination, taking readers on a journey with 14-year-old Hanna from the slowly enveloping horror of the Holocaust to the literal and spiritual depths of being buried alive. . . An unforgettable odyssey.”  
--**Greg Dawson, author of Hiding in the Spotlight**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR.

**Tara Lynn Masih**, author of the acclaimed novella and short story collection, *How We Disappear*, the short story collection, *Where the Dog Star Never Glows*, and editor of two award-winning anthologies, *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction & The Chalk Circle: Intercultural Prizewinning Essays*, is the founder of *The Best Small Fictions* series. She received a finalist grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council along with multiple awards and *Pushcart Prize* nominations for her fiction. *My Real Name Is Hanna* is her first novel. She now lives in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

ISBN: 9781942134510/ Paper with Flaps/ 208 pages/ 5.5 x 9 / Price: \$16.95  
ISBN: 9781942134497/ eBook/ 208 pages / 5.5 x 9 / Price: \$9.99



## **ZION'S FICTION: A Treasury of Israeli Speculative Literature**

**Sheldon Teitelbaum and Emanuel Lottem, editors**

**This is the first English-language anthology of Israeli fantasy and science fiction providing a portal into the speculative literature from the ultimate ImagiNation.**

“This splendid new anthology will open a window on contemporary Israeli fantasy and science fiction — a stream of powerful work that we need to know more about.”— **Robert Silverberg**, *multiple winner of Hugo and Nebula Awards, Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame, and a SF Grand Master.*

“Showcases an impressive array of 16 speculative stories .... The high quality of work makes this anthology enjoyable and accessible for any fan of speculative fiction.”—**Publishers Weekly**

“An excellent collection of speculative fiction”—**World Literature Today**

“The first anthology of speculative fiction in translation from Israel; bringing together the best contemporary SF from Hebrew, Russian, and English, **Zion's Fiction** will introduce American readers to the rich but little-known SF tradition that has flourished in this tiny country in the Middle East.”—**Rachel Cordasco**, *Literary Hub*, 7/20/18

“This first English-language collection of Israeli speculative fiction fills a hole in the literature of international sf... This notable anthology is appropriate for all sf fans and a valuable resource for any library.” **Library Journal**

“A must have for hardcore science fiction fans.... This is a compilation of good writing, pure and simple.... Readers should be able to find...many stories they'll want to reread over and over. .... this will open a gateway to some of the worlds most talented authors they may not have otherwise been exposed to, but more importantly, it will as entertain your imagination.” **Ricky L. Brown**, *Amazing Stories Magazine*

“Israeli fantasy and SF are as lively and rewarding as any body of SF, and just as diverse – both in terms of the topics and themes and in terms of modes of writing.... [The Editors] have done an admirable job of balancing these various voices and traditions, recognizing both mainstream writers who occasionally venture into the fantastic and writers clearly aware of the genre they're working in. **Locus Magazine**

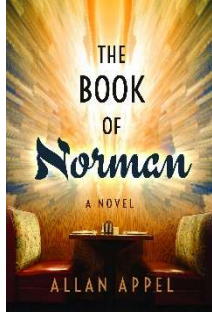
“Zion's Fiction will supply a distinctive bright line to the spectrum of futuristic fiction, which stands in sore need of broadening, in the cause of promoting cross-cultural understanding as well as showcasing exciting new talent.”  
— **Brian Stableford**, author, 70 novels and renown SF historian

“Zion's Fiction explores the unlimited dreams of a people who have learned to stand on shifting ground. To face a future filled with danger and hope, forging into territory that can only be surveyed with the lamp of imagination on our brows.”— **David Brin**, Hugo and Nebula award-author

“When my collection *Wandering Stars: An Anthology of Jewish Fantasy and Science Fiction* was published in 1974, [It] became a classic. And now...we have the first ever anthology in the entire universe of Israeli fantasy and science fiction: *Zion's Fiction*...Go forth and read...and may you find *Zion's Fiction* unexpected, delightful, and delirious!”—**Jack Dann**, author & editor of over 75 books including, *The Memory Cathedral* and *The Silent*

ISBN: 9781942134527/ Paper with Flaps/ 322 pages/ 6 x 9 / Price: \$24.95

ISBN: 9781942134534/ eBook / 320 pages/ 6 X 9 / Price: \$14.99



# The Book of Norman, A Novel

by Allan Appel

*Two brothers compete for their dead father's soul in a comedic tale of sibling rivalry, angelic messengers, and the serious business of who runs the afterlife.*

"An exciting read, with insights into rarely conjoined subjects and a rare—exceedingly rare—glimpse into an intriguing corner of the American mélange: Mormon and Jewish areas of collision, crisis and the prospect for cooperation."—**Monroe Price**, *Huffington Post*,

"I can't think of many novels that, while not taking themselves too seriously, manage to be intelligent and sympathetic to not one but two oft-misunderstood American religions. That is, there may be books that get Judaism right, or books, though I doubt it, that get Mormons right, but to get them, *both* right? Quite a feat."

--**Mark Oppenheimer**, religion columnist for the New York Times 2010-2016 and author of *Knocking on Heaven's Door: American Religion in the Age of Counterculture*

"With wit and verve, Allan Appel has crafted a delightful comic novel. Best of all is its irresistible narrator-protagonist, uncertainly poised between belief and unbelief, family loyalty and rebelliousness. Underneath the clever plot twists is a genuine quest for wisdom and a warmth and tenderness rare in today's fiction."—**Phillip Lopate**, author of *A Mother's Tale*, *The Art of the Personal Essay*, *To Show and Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction*

"As fast-paced, audacious, and irreverent as a pickup basketball game played for human souls, *The Book of Norman* is a joyful romp through the minefield of American religious difference."—**Peter Manseau**, American writer, religion scholar, and museum curator (Lilly Endowment of American Religious History at the National Museum, of American History, the Smithsonian and author of *Songs for the Butcher's Daughter*, *One Nation, Under Gods: A New American History*, *The Jefferson Bible*, *A Biography*, among other books

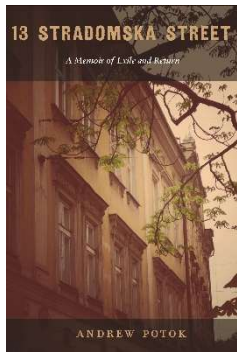
## ABOUT THE BOOK

*The Book of Norman* probes with humor and seriousness Mormon-Jewish relationships and traditions regarding the treatment of the dead. Set in 1967, after dropping out of a Jewish seminary in New York, all Norman wants to do is catch up on sex, love, and rock 'n' roll, while consuming as many non-kosher cheeseburgers as he can. Yet when his doper brother, Jon, gets a buzz cut, sells his stash, and becomes a Mormon-in-training, the battle between them is engaged. It gets serious when Jon insists on baptizing their dead father, a Mormon practice that Jews—even one cheeseburger-addled rabbinical school dropout—deplore as a violation of Jewish teachings on the afterlife. As Jon becomes an expert on the vast architecture of Mormon heavenly realms where their dad's soul could be waiting for him, Norman grows lost and confused, then outraged. Just when he is about to give up the soul battle, two Jewish angels appear and assert themselves. A religious tug-of-war ensues and culminates in a monumental hilarious game of basketball, pitting Norman and the angels against a Mormon team of players. With the angels' help, Norman becomes a reluctant, yet dauntless defender of the faith.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Allan Appel**, born in Chicago and raised in Los Angeles, is a prize-winning novelist and playwright whose books include *Club Revelation*; *High Holiday Sutra*, winner of a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers Award; and *The Rabbi of Casino Boulevard*, a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. His most recent novel, *The Hebrew Tutor of Bel Air* (Coffee House Press) 2010) is being optioned for television. The winner of two fellowships in fiction from the Connecticut State Office of Arts and Tourism, Appel lives in New Haven, where for the last decade he has been a staff writer for the online *New Haven Independent*.

ISBN: 9781942134312/Paper with Flaps / \$19.95/ 344 Pages / 6 x 9  
E-book: ISBN 9781942134329 /344 pages / \$12.99



# 13 Stradomska Street

## A Memoir of Exile and Return

by Andrew Potok

“I was deeply stirred and instructed by *13 Stradomska Street*. . . . Andrew Potok's book is more than a fine memoir. It's also a profound meditation on human evils, on the Poland in the heart, on the persistence of the unforgivable, and on the intelligent human labor to live rightly, nevertheless. I cannot recommend it too highly.”—**Todd Gitlin**, American sociologist, political activist and, novelist, and cultural critic and author of many books including, *The Twilight of Common Dreams: Why America Is Wracked by Culture Wars* & *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage*

“A terrific book! I could not put it down. The book turns back and forth between the author’s childhood memories and his blind journey back to Poland, weaving between the personal and the political. Potok draws the reader into the story with a deft evocation of childhood smells and Jewish cooking in Poland; the moving imagined conversations with his dead grandparents; the difficult, complex analysis of his father's almost disastrous actions at the Lithuanian border; and his profound and deeply layered account of hatreds he encounters, both before and after the War.”—**Roger Porter**, author of *The Voice Within: Reading and Writing Autobiography* and *Bureau of Missing Persons: Writing the Secret Lives of Fathers*.

“This is a remarkable book in which horror is leavened by humor, and betrayal and venality by the riches of discoveries that come with time and always, with a thoughtful, probing of the ways the past both imprisons us and sets us free. Potok is blind but he makes us see, as never before, not only the pre-World War Two landscape from which he and his family fled, but of how and why and at what price, despite all, they survived.”—**Jay Neugeboren**, author of *The Stolen Jew, 1940, and Imagining Robert*

“A civilized man in an uncivilized world, painter Andrew Potok examines the long reach of both his family's 1939 escape from Poland and his own encroaching blindness in this powerful and elegant memoir.”—**Elinor Langer**, a member of *The Nation* editorial board and author of *A Hundred Little Hitlers*.

### ABOUT THE BOOK.

When Andrew Potok was eight, he fled with his family from Warsaw, leaving home and business to escape the invading Nazis. The family made it to America, but Andrew’s memories of violence, Jew hatred, and betrayal--including that of his father--erupted into nightmares and eventually formed the backdrop of his rich, though at times turbulent, life as an artist and writer.

Late in Andrew's life, a Polish lawyer offers to help him reclaim property in Krakow that was wrongfully inherited by a relative, he and his wife revisit Poland, experience virulent anti-Semitism which awakens Andrew’s long-dormant memories and provokes deep reflections on the nature of evil. The ongoing lawsuit becomes emblematic of the book’s central theme: There can be no closure for survivors of the Holocaust--no justice for victims or perpetrators, no compensation, and no forgiveness.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Andrew Potok**, a successful visual artist until he went blind in his forties. He authored several important books: *Ordinary Daylight*, *Portrait of An Artist Going Blind*, about his loss of eyesight and its impact on work, identity, and personal relationships; *My Life with Goya*, a novel about a young Polish Jew’s new life in America following World War II; and *A Matter of Dignity: Changing the World of the Disabled*, portraits of therapists and activists who worked to more fully integrate disabled persons into mainstream American life. He died in January 2024 at the age of 92.

ISBN: 9781942134305 Paperback with flaps/ 216 pp/ 16pp photo insert/ Price: \$16.95  
E-ISBN: 9781942134299 E-Book/ 216 pages / \$12.99



# Isra-Isle, A Novel

by Nava Semel

Translated from Hebrew by Jessica Cohen

**Publishers Weekly** Fall 2016 Announcements for SF & Fantasy, **top 10 list of recommended books!** **One of the most original voices in Israeli literature!**

“Explores an intriguing *what-if* scenario based on historical fact. In 1825, Jewish-American Mordecai Manuel Noah purchased Grand Island, near Niagara Falls, from Native Americans, planning to create a place of refuge for Jews. Semel’s novel asks the question, what if this plan had worked?... In this changed world, Israel never existed, Native American and Jewish customs have been merged, and the American Jewish state affects many issues in the world.... Semel explores issues of global importance in this singular, thought-provoking novel.”—**Publishers Weekly**

[A] spellbinding alternate-history....”—**Rachel Cordasco, *Speculative Fiction in Translation***

“*Isra-Isle* ...is another genre-bending triumph, and a sophisticated contribution to the vibrant literary tradition of Jewish alternative histories...speculating on what might have happened had Jews settled in alternative Jewish homelands outside of the Middle East.... Semel’s *Isra-Isle* poses urgent questions about the meaning of collective memory, peoplehood, and heritage.... *Isra-Isle*—with Jessica Cohen’s sparkling translation, delivers all the wit, lyrical power, and tender warmth of the Hebrew original.”—**Ranen Omer-Sherman, Jewish Book Council**

“It’s rare to read a book as brave and brilliant Israeli author Nava Semel’s *Isra-Isle*, a book that defies classification. Is it a detective novel, à la Chabon’s *The Yiddish Policemen’s Union*? Is it a historical novel, rooted in the real life of Mordecai Manuel Noah, an American journalist and visionary, who in 1825 bought Grand Island, a piece of land downriver from Niagara Falls, with the hope of creating a Jewish homeland that never came to be? Or is it an alt-universe, science fiction novel where the reader gets to find out what might have happened if Noah’s vision had succeeded? The answer is that this extraordinary and extraordinarily strange book is all three. Semel’s prose dazzles, and Jessica Cohen’s superb translation... delivers a daring, provocative, and entertaining novel.” --**NecessaryFiction.com** by **Peter Grandbois**

“In a daring and brilliant book, Nava Semel turns the Zionist narrative upside-down and contemplates whether it would have been possible to change the history of the Jewish people. She creates a world in which a prosperous Jewish state under American patronage arises at Grand Island, near the Niagara Falls, in the wake of the vision of Mordecai Manuel Noah. This is a fascinating book that connects Jews, Indians, and Afro-Americans, all with a persecuted past and searching for a homeland, and asks the question, “What would have happened if?” —**Abraham B. Yehoshua, *Mr. Mani***

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

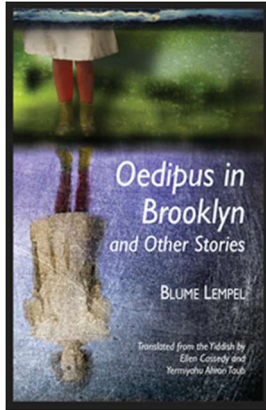
**Nava Semel**, born in Israel in 1954, was the author of 16 books, including *Becoming Gershona*, winner of the 1990 National Jewish Book Award; *Flying Lessons*, published in 1995 and chosen as one of the best young adult novels in Germany; and her acclaimed novel, *And the Rat Laughed*, published in Hebrew in 2001, and in English in 2008. Nava Semel died suddenly in December 2017 amid the success of *Isra-Isle*.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

**Jessica Cohen** has translated some of Israel’s finest writers, including David Grossman, Etgar Keret, Ronit Matalon, and Tom Segev, as well as with screenwriters such as Ari Folman and Ron Leshem.

ISBN: 9781-942134190 / Paperback with Flaps / 240 pp/ list price: \$16.95

ISBN: 9781942134206 / eBook / 240 pp / list price: \$9.99



## **Oedipus in Brooklyn and Other Stories**

**by Blume Lempel**

Translated from Yiddish by Ellen Cassedy and Yermiyahu Ahron Taub

Co-published by Mandel Vilar Press and Dryad Press

**Winner of the Modern Language Association's Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies (2014-2017)**  
**2018 Selection, Great Jewish Books Book Club of the Yiddish Book Center**  
**Book Riot's 100 Must-Read Books about Women and Religion**

"A splendid surprise and a significant revivification of a brilliantly robust Yiddish-American writer."—*Cynthia Ozick*

"With shrewdness, wit, and lyricism, Lempel gives voice to the women, the aging, the ill, and others who, from the margins of modern society, have had trouble making themselves heard."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Stunning...a brilliant, talented writer with one foot in the prewar world in Europe and the other in postwar America....Highly recommended for all collections of Jewish literature."—*Assn of Jewish Libraries*

"Richly evocative, filled with pleasure and pain, and powerfully human and humane."—*The Forward*

"These are stories that deserve a cherished place in the canon of Jewish literature."—*Foreword Reviews*

"Blume Lempel left a remarkable legacy that this beautifully translated volume finally makes accessible to a wider audience."  
—*Anita Norich, Writing in Tongues: Translating Yiddish in the 20th Century*

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Blume Lempel** (1907–1999) was born in Khorostkiv (now Ukraine). She immigrated to Paris in 1929 and fled to New York on the eve of World War II. She wrote in Yiddish into the 1990s. Her prize-winning fiction is remarkable for its psychological acuity, its unflinching examination of erotic themes and gender relations, and its technical virtuosity. Mirroring the dislocation of mostly women protagonists, her stories move between present and past, Old World and New, dream and reality. This book is the first English language collection and translation of Lempel's stories and is based on a manuscript that won the 2012 National Yiddish Book Center Translation Prize.

### **ABOUT THE TRANSLATORS**

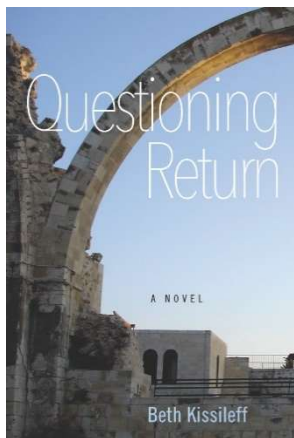
**Ellen Cassedy**, co-translator, is also the translator of *On The Landing: The Stories of Yenta Mash*, and the author of *We Are Here*, which explored the world of the Lithuanian Holocaust which won the Grub Street National Book Prize for Nonfiction. She is a frequent contributor to the *Huffington Post*, *Hadassah*, *The Jewish Forward*,. She lives in Takoma, Maryland, near Washington, D.C.

**Yermiyahu Ahron Taub**, co-translator, is the author of four volumes of poetry, *Prayers of a Heretic/Tfiles fun an apikoyres* (2013), *Uncle Feygele* (2011), *What Stillness Illuminated/Vos shtilkayt hot baloykhntn* (2008), and *The Insatiable Psalm* (2005). Taub has been nominated twice for a Best of the Net Award and four times for a Pushcart Prize. He lives in Washington, D.C.

ISBN: 9781942134213/ Paperback with Flaps/ 240 Pages/ \$16.95

ISBN: 9781942134251/ Hardcover/ 240 Pages / \$29.95

ISBN: 9781942134220/ eBook / 240 Pages / \$9.99



## Questioning Return, A Novel

by **Beth Kissileff**

"The year in Jerusalem you never had!... A sensitive, nuanced, and believable journey to a place, both physical and spiritual, that feels utterly real."—**Dara Horn**, author of *A Guide for the Perplexed, A Novel, The World to Come, All Other Nights*, and *In the Image, A Novel*,

"The brainy, conflicted heroine of Beth Kissileff's heart-stirring debut novel... goes to Israel to interview *baalei teshuvah*, Jews who have come home to a tradition once lost to them. The process launches her on an intellectual, spiritual, and romantic adventure that will change your understanding of what it means to truly belong. An eloquent and

absorbing achievement."—**Steve Stern**, author of *The Pinch, A Novel, Lazar Malkin Enters Heaven*

"The story of a young woman's attempt to understand the meaning of 'return' becomes a tale of complex, memorable, and transformative beginnings. A novel as rich in the questions it probes as it is in the characters it renders." —**Jay Neugeboren**, author of *Max Baer and The Star of David, Imagining Robert*, and *Stolen Rabbi*

"Sex, death, Torah, more sex. This book's got everything and then some!"—**Gary Shteyngart**, *Super-Sad True Love Story*

No other novel so vividly portrays the religious life of young Americans seeking a life of traditional Jewish observance and Torah study in contemporary Jerusalem. Sabbaths, holidays, and daily rituals spring to life through a coming-of-age story of a young woman's struggle to combine her academic aspirations with a quest for spiritual fulfillment."—**Jeffrey L. Rubenstein**, Skirball Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics, New York University, *Stories of the Babylonian Talmud and Rabbinic Stories*.

### ABOUT THE BOOK

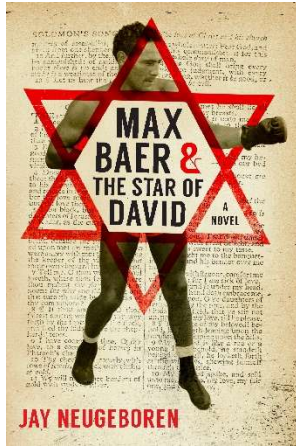
An ambitious graduate student, Wendy spends a year in Jerusalem questioning the lives of American Jews who "return" both to Israel itself and to traditional religious practices. Have they changed themselves at all? Are they sincere? Or happier? Wendy is certain that she's on the path to academic glory. But from the moment her plane takes off Wendy is confronted with unanswerable questions of faith and identity. As she becomes immersed in the rhythm of Israeli life, her sense of distance from it fades. Her ability to be a neutral outside observer terminates abruptly when a student commits a horrible act immediately after his interview with her. Wendy is not sure how or if she is implicated in his action, but in her search for understanding, she is led to knowledge and love in unforeseen places. Though Wendy Goldberg planned to ask questions of others, she finds the ones that truly matter are those she asks of herself.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Beth Kissileff**, a fiction writer and journalist spent two years studying in Jerusalem and continues to visit Israel regularly. Her writing appears regularly in publications including the *New York Times*, *The Forward*, *Tablet*, *Haaretz* and *The Jerusalem Post*. She has received fellowships from the Corporation of Yaddo and the National Endowment for the Humanities and taught at Carleton College, the University of Minnesota, Smith College and Mount Holyoke College. She is also the editor of an anthology in which academics write on the Bible, *Reading Genesis: Beginnings*. She lives in Pittsburgh and is at work on a volume of short stories and a second novel.

ISBN: 978194213437/ Paperback with Flaps/ 372 Pages / list price \$19.95.

E-ISBN: 9781942134244 /E-Book/ 372 Pages/ \$14.99



## Max Baer and The Star of David, A Novel

**Jay Neugeboren**

“Neugeboren has never been better than in this lush, joyful novel—as erotic and mysterious as *The Song of Songs*, and as clear as a heavyweight champion's punch in the gut. I loved it.”—**Robert Lipsyte**, author of *An Accidental Sportswriter*

“A strange and strangely beautiful tale that conjures up a golden era of boxing in the way A. J. Liebling did in *The Sweet Science*. I was enchanted from start to finish.”—**Gary Shteyngart**, author of *Little Failure: A Memoir*

“An irresistible tribute to the sweet science, and a thrillingly jaunty evocation of an almost forgotten era.”—**Phillip Lopate**, author of *Portrait Inside My Head*

“A powerful and starkly gritty literary page-turner--this novel is a total knockout.”—**Binnie Kirschenbaum**, *Hester Among the Ruins*

“The book will bewitch readers with its own powerful song and haunting love story, filled with regret and a deep rage against America's racial sins, past and present.”—**Jerome Charyn**, author of *I Am Abraham*

“For any reader who cares about good writing and imagination, lover of boxing or not, *Max Baer and the Star of David* is required reading.”—**Beth Kissileff**, *The Jerusalem Post*

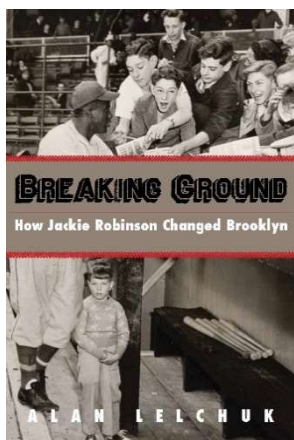
“At the heart of this novel are two mysterious and memorable fictional characters, Max Baer's constant companions, Horace and Joleen Littlejohn, who...become best friends and sometime lovers to Max in this dazzling story about the world of boxing, and about Max's life in and out of the ring. The result is a strange and affecting interracial love story like no other.”—**Goodreads.com**

“[This] is a novel first, a boxing novel second. And that's how it should be for a novel whose title character may have been more famous for his out-of-ring escapades than his pugilistic career. The real fighters in this novel are the people that surround Max, Horace and Joleen.... Neugeboren takes old fight-film footage, removes the graininess, introduces color, helps us hear and see the men and women behind the man, as well as the man himself, Max Baer, whose life was as colorful as the deep blue star emblazoned on his trunks.”—**Adam Berlin**, *Boxing.com*

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Jay Neugeboren** is the author of 22 books, including five prize-winning novels (e.g., *The Stolen Jew*, 1940), two prize-winning books of nonfiction (*Imagining Robert*, *Transforming Madness*), and four collections of award-winning stories. His stories and essays have appeared in many publications, including *The New York Review of Books*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The American Scholar*, *The New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *Black Clock*, and *Hadassah*, and have been reprinted in more than 50 anthologies, including *Best American Short Stories* and *The O. Henry Prize Stories*. A professor and writer-in-residence for many years at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Neugeboren has taught at other universities, including Stanford, Indiana, S.U.N.Y. at Old Westbury, and Freiburg. He now lives and writes in New York City, where he is on the faculty of the Writing Program of the Graduate School of the Arts at Columbia University.

ISBN: 9781942134176 / Paperback with Flaps / 208 Pages/ Price: \$19.95  
E-ISBN: 9781942134183 / E-Book / 208 Pages / \$14.99



## **Breaking Ground: How Jackie Robinson Changed Brooklyn**

**Alan Lelchuk**

**A Coming-Of-Age Memoir in the Shadow of Ebbets Field and Jackie Robinson**

“Lelchuk grew up in Brooklyn, the son of immigrants in the post-WWII era, and had a firsthand view of Jackie Robinson’s rise as a baseball player, a public icon, and a voice for equality. [He] uses both memoirist and historian eyes to examine a baseball great.... Many are familiar with Robinson’s baseball career and cultural impact, but Lelchuk gives insight into the hope Robinson brought specifically to Brooklyn, and particularly to its immigrant families.... While this book will catch the eye of sports fans and Robinson fans, its reach is far greater. It shows how one man changed the racial climate of a troubled borough during a trying era. But it also shows Robinson’s effect on one household and one young boy. Lelchuk’s great skill as a writer allows the book to meet the challenge of speaking on a personal and political level.”—*Foreword Reviews*

“Lelchuk is channeling ‘the voice of a boy partly by design, and partly by the power of that boy’s feelings still beating strongly in the adult.’... A coming-of-age narrative in which baseball and Robinson play a singular role and a symbol for a young man struggling to define his own Jewish-American identity in working-class Brooklyn. This ... memoir transports the reader into the mind and heart of a young Alan Lelchuk, who finds his definition of American heroism in the tenacious Jackie Robinson.” —*Sara L. Trembanis, Journal of Sports History*

“Showcases how Robinson's dignity, humanity, and athletic skill eventually made a difference throughout the nation, not just in one borough.”—*Jorge Iber, author of More Than Just Peloteros: Sport and U.S. Latino Communities*

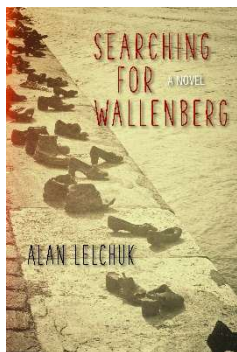
### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

In this unique memoir, we experience the joys of the game of baseball, its native nuances and its quintessential American qualities. We understand how Jackie played the game with a rare excellence and excitement that challenged the way the game had been played. We also experience the climate of racial prejudice and the Cold War that pervaded the post WWII era. We witness the responses from the kids of Brooklyn who took Jackie to their hearts and minds and made him their own personal folk hero. We see how the nation began to look at the borough of Brooklyn in a different light, one that highlighted a pioneering spirit and suggested a path forward in race relations. Finally, we can sense the joys of childhood and youth that tied together a young Brooklyn fan and the greatest Dodger player. It is a hymn to baseball and its legendary hero.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Alan Lelchuk** was born and raised in Brooklyn, attended public schools and Brooklyn College for his B.A. (1960) in World Literature and Stanford University for his graduate degrees in English (M.A. 1963, Ph.D. 1965). He taught at Brandeis between 1966 and 1981. He has been a Visiting Writer at Amherst College, CCNY, University of Naples, The Free University in Berlin, and Moscow State University. In 2001-2002 he was the Salgo Professor of American literature and writing at ELTE in Budapest. A recipient of both Guggenheim and Fulbright Awards for fiction, He has been on the Dartmouth College faculty since 1985.

ISBN: 9781942134077 / Paperback with Flaps /140 Pages / list price \$15.95  
E-ISBN: 9781942134084/ E-Book / 140 Pages / \$9.99



## Searching for Wallenberg, A Novel

**Alan Lelchuk**

A fictional account of Wallenberg's life that draws on a startling nonfictional interview by the author with the Swedish diplomat's KGB interrogator to create a narrative which is more illuminating than any history we have or may ever get. . . the reader feels closer to understanding the complex nature of Raoul Wallenberg, as a "pure and saintly" and a "flawed and tainted" individual who undertook an important mission for humanity, as a Swede with some Jewish blood, and as a determined opponent of the brutal Nazi authority." **Louis Gordon, *Tikkun***

"This is a thoughtful and compelling novel...will hopefully introduce more readers to an important and often overlooked hero."— **Foreword Magazine.**

"The novel may be as close to the "truth" about Wallenberg and why we need to keep his memory alive as we are likely to have. Thanks to Lelchuk, Wallenberg's ethical example continues to move us with admiration and awe."  
— **Donald Weber**, Jewish Book Council

"At once a detective story and an unusual love story, . . . A novel within a novel and filled with multiple layers and surprising characters that all lead to a deeper understanding of this enigmatic hero.... A tour-de-force..." **Midwest Book Review**

"Part detective story, part philosophic inquiry, part historic revisionism, . . . a thinking man's thriller."  
— **Jules Feiffer**, Oscar-winning cartoonist

"A brilliantly constructed literary investigation into the mysterious life and death of Raoul Wallenberg."  
—**Michael Walzer**, author of *Just and Unjust Wars*

### ABOUT THE BOOK

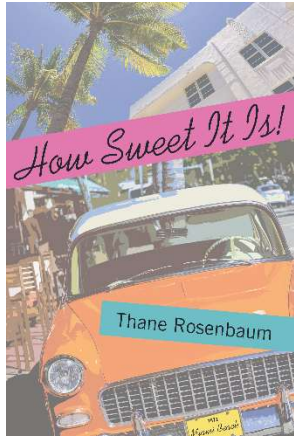
The world remembers Raoul Wallenberg as the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Jews in Budapest in 1944-45, and was subsequently arrested by the Soviets in 1945, and taken to Moscow where he disappeared until his apparent death. Now, more than 70 years after these events, many mysteries about Wallenberg's life and fate persist. Alan Lelchuk explores the mysteries still surrounding Wallenberg. How and when did he die? Did he perhaps survive in some Gulag camp or psychiatric hospital? Why did he languish in a Soviet prison from 1945-1947 without being exchanged by the Swedish government or rescued by his very wealthy and well-connected family in Stockholm?

Lelchuk meditates on these enduring mysteries and tries to imagine, with the scanty historical evidence, what might have really happened. During his writing of the novel Lelchuk engaged in wide research including travels to Stockholm, Budapest, and Moscow, where he interviewed historians, read documents and archives and visited physical sites. He also met with some of the few remaining witnesses, officials and participants including, most significantly, Wallenberg's KGB interrogator (Daniel Pagliansky) in Lubyanka Prison in 1945-47—the first and only Westerner to interview this key character.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Alan Lelchuk** is a novelist and professor, whose critically acclaimed novels are *American Mischief*, *Miriam at Thirty-Four*, *Shrinking: The Beginning of My Own Ending*, *Miriam in Her Forties*, *Brooklyn Boy*, *Playing the Game*, and *Ziff: A Life?* He co-edited *8 Great Hebrew Short Novels* and has written, for young adults, *On Home Ground*. He is a co-founder of Steerforth Press, has taught at Brandeis University and Amherst College, and since 1985 has been on the faculty of Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

ISBN: 9781942134046 / Paperback / 288 Pages / list price \$16.95  
E-ISBN: 9781942134059 / E-Book / 288 Pages / \$14.99



# How Sweet It Is!

**Thane Rosenbaum,**

**Selected as the “Centennial book” by the City of Miami Beach in celebration of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary!**

“*How Sweet It Is!* plunges its fictional characters into the thrilling, dangerous, and often absurd world of Miami in the 1970s. It’s that rare book that manages to be both intensely informative and huge joy to read.” --**Lara Vapnyar**, author of *There Are Jews in My House* and *Memoirs of a Muse*

*How Sweet It Is!* brilliantly and hilariously captures the Miami of 1972”—**Huffington Post**

“Fans of the greater Miami megalopolis rejoice! Finally, there’s a novel that nails your part of the world!”  
— **Gary Shteyngart**, author of *Absurdistan*, and *Super Sad True Love Story*

“A powerful time capsule: open its covers and you enter a bittersweet moment in American Jewish history. . . . It’s all here—gangsters, survivors, flower children, school integration, Yiddish literature, the Munich Olympics, and the strange and beautiful possibilities of catastrophe and renewal in the elephant graveyard of 20th century American Jews, Miami Beach. Dive in and enjoy!”—**Dara Horn**, author of *A Guide for the Perplexed*

“It’s hard to resist raising a toast to a book that shows Lansky, Frank Sinatra, Isaac Bashevis Singer and Muhammad Ali at a Little League Baseball game umpired by Fidel Castro. As Gleason, would say, “And awaaaay we go!”—**The Washington Post**

“A smart, funny, rollicking, and razor-sharp novel.”-- Jonathan Kirsch, **Los Angeles Jewish Journal**

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Set in Miami Beach in 1972, **HOW SWEET IT IS!** by critically acclaimed novelist, Thane Rosenbaum follows the Posner family—two Holocaust survivors, Sophie and Jacob and their son, Adam—doing everything they can to avoid one another in a city with an infinite supply of colorful diversions. In '72 Miami hosted both the Republican and Democratic political conventions and experienced the rise of the counterculture, the Cold War, and the desegregation of the old South. In the style of E.L. Doctorow’s *Ragtime*, **HOW SWEET IT IS!** is populated and enriched by the presence of many historical characters of the day including Jackie Gleason, Frank Sinatra, Muhammad Ali, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Meyer Lansky, and Fidel Castro. Miami Beach was to be the Posner’s salvation. Instead they discover that it is not a place of camouflage—all that sunshine highlighted the very things they wished to forget.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

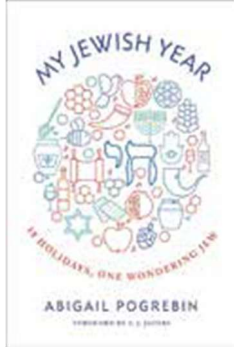
**Thane Rosenbaum** is the author of the critically acclaimed novels, *The Stranger Within Sarah Stein*, *The Golems of Gotham*, *Second-Hand Smoke*, and the novel-in-stories, *Elijah Visible*, which received the Edward Lewis Wallant Award for the best book of Jewish American fiction. He is a Distinguished Fellow at New York University School of Law where he directs the Forum on Law, Culture & Society

ISBN: 9781942134015 / 214 Pages / Paperback / Price: \$16.95

E-ISBN: 9781942134183. /214 Pages/ E-Book / \$14.99

## Fig Tree Books & Mandel Vilar Press

In 2022, MVP created a new trade book Imprint called **Fig Tree Books**—a collaborative publishing arrangement between these two leading Jewish publishers: Mandel Vilar Press and Fig Tree Books LLC.



### **My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew**

by **Abigail Pogrebin**

Foreword by **A.J. Jacobs**

**2018 National Jewish Book Award Finalist**

**2026 First Paperback Edition Just Published!**

“Lively, funny, and honest...a relatable, immersive experience” - **New York Times**

“To understand the Jewish calendar, Abigail Pogrebin immersed herself in its rhythms and rituals for a full 12 months. Her riveting account of this experience serves as a lively introduction to Judaism’s holidays and fast days and opens a window on how Judaism is actually lived in 21st-century America.” - **Jonathan D. Sarna, Brandeis University**

“Insightful, clever, funny, and compulsively readable...Even knowledgeable Jews will find wisdom and new perspectives in these pages.” --**Publishers Weekly**

An educational journey through the feasts and fasts of the religious calendar. Former *60 Minutes* producer Pogrebin embarked on a rigorous program celebrating for a full year, the grave holy days and happy holidays her faith prescribes...”-- **Kirkus Reviews**

“An invaluable text for learning about Jewish holidays and for understanding how contemporary people work to find personal meaning in inherited traditions.” **Foreword Reviews**

“A superb point-of-entry volume for anyone who wants to bring Jewish holidays into their lives, and a great refresher course for veterans who need their holidays re-energized. - **Rabbi Joseph Telushkin**, author of *Rebbe and Jewish Literacy*

“[Her] candid exploration of Judaism via 18 core holidays is not only informative but also extremely relatable, for Jews and non-Jews alike. Her journey to locate modern-day meaning in these religious traditions...is both relevant and soulful.” - **Lauren Bush-Lauren**, Founder and CEO, FEED Projects

“Abigail Pogrebin’s journey through the Jewish year is honest, illuminating, entertaining, and incredibly brave...You will find new material and so many fresh, surprising insights in this remarkable book.” - **Jane Eisner**, Editor-in-Chief, Forward

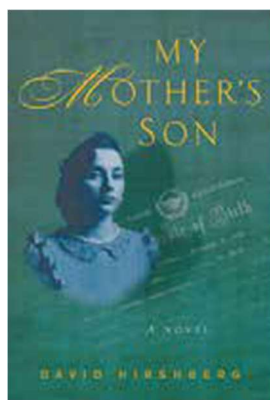
### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

Although she grew up following some holiday rituals, Pogrebin realized how little she knew about their foundational purpose and current relevance. She wanted to understand what had kept these holidays alive and vibrant, in some cases for thousands of years. Her curiosity led her to embark on an entire year of intensive research, observation, and writing about the milestones on the Jewish calendar. *My Jewish Year* travels through this calendar's signposts with candor, humor, and a trove of information, capturing the arc of Jewish observance through the eyes of a relatable, wandering--and wondering--Jew. The chapters are interspersed with brief reflections from prominent rabbis and Jewish thinkers. If you're seeking an accessible, digestible roadmap for Jewish life or a fresh exploration of what you've mastered, you'll be educated, entertained, and inspired by Pogrebin's unusual journey--and by *My Jewish Year*.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

In addition to *My Jewish Year*, Abigail Pogrebin is the author of *Stars of David; Prominent Jews Talk about Being Jewish, One and the Same*, and *Showstopper*. She was also an Emmy-nominated producer for Mike Wallace at 60 Minutes, and before that a producer for Bill Moyers at PBS. She served as President of Central Synagogue from 2015-2018.

ISBN: 9781941493205 / **Hardcover** / 336 Pages / \$22.95 / **Paperback** ISBN 9781941493427 / \$13.95  
E-ISBN: 9781941493212 / **eBook** / 245 Pages / \$14.99



## **My Mother's Son** by David Hirshberg

“Hirshberg’s debut novel packs both emotional punch and a vivid portrait of Jewish American life on post-WWII Boston.... Readers will find connections here to Michael Chabon’s *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* and to Saul Bellow’s classic, *The Adventures of Augie March*.” – **Booklist, starred review**

“This amazing mosaic of fact and fiction will hold readers in its grip from the first to last page.” - **Library Journal, starred review**

“This colorful and complex portrait of a 1950s Jewish family is warm and nostalgic yet grounded by deep history.... creating colorful and complex portrait of a family from their immigration to their assimilation and eventual successes.” - **Foreword Reviews**

“A moving coming-of-age story spiced with dark family secrets, historical references, dirty politics, and poignant immigrants’ tales.... This journey from innocence to acceptance is satisfying, rich, and reflective. - **Renita Last, Jewish Book Council**

“A richly sprawling and singular Jewish-American saga. It echoes with an unwashed Boston brogue and a heart that beats with a Holocaust past. And it entertains with wit, humor, and secrets both dark and luminously incandescent.” - **Thane Rosenbaum**, author of *The Golems of Gotham* and *Second Hand Smoke*

“This provocative novel is the colorful description of life as seen through the eyes of thirteen-year-old Joel, and at the same time, a telling and re-telling that allows adult Joel to process and decipher the truths and richness of all that transpires. I enjoyed it from beginning to end.” - **Jeanne McWilliams Blasberg**, author of *Eden: A Novel*

### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

*My Mother's Son*, the meticulously crafted debut novel from David Hirshberg, is a story told by a radio raconteur revisiting his past in post-World War II Boston, the playground and battleground for two brothers whose lives are transformed by discoveries they never could have imagined. From the opening line of the book, ‘When you're a kid, they don't always tell you the truth,’ the stage is set for this riveting coming-of-age story that plays out against the backdrop of the Korean War, the aftermath of the Holocaust, the polio epidemic, the relocation of a baseball team, and the shenanigans of politicians and businessmen. Hirshberg deftly weaves together events, characters, and clues and creates a rich tapestry of betrayal, persecution, death, loyalty, and unconditional love that resonates with today's America.

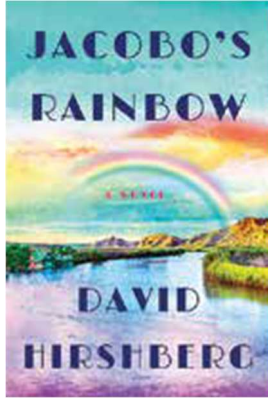
### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

David Hirshberg, educated at Dartmouth College, and the University of Pennsylvania, is a very successful entrepreneur—a former CEO and Chairman of the Board of several major Life Sciences companies—who writes under a pseudonym. He is an historical fiction writer who writes about the American Jewish experience. His first novel, *My Mother's Son* published in 2018 won nine awards and reviewers compared his writing to Michael Chabon and Saul Bellow

ISBN: 9781941493229 / Hardcover / 370 Page / Price: \$23.95

## Jacobo's Rainbow

by David Hirshberg



“A beautiful novel set in the past but perfectly, scarily, relevant to our current moment.”- **Gary Shteyngart**, author of *Our Country Friends*, *Lake Success*, *Absurdistan*, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*, and *Super Sad True Love Story*

“Jacobo’s journey takes him from that remote enclave [ the tiny New Mexico town of Arroyo Grande],to a college campus, where he becomes immersed in the Free Speech movement, and to the battlefields of Vietnam. His insights and observations about society, his peers, bigotry and anti-Semitism are both trenchant and currently relevant to the culture wars and threats to free speech we see on our college campuses and society at large today. *Jacobo’s Rainbow* is a deeply moving, sensitive, and profound novel—a definite must-read.”- **Marcia Clark**, author of *Blood Defense and Final Judgment*

“Blending together historical events and wonderfully imaginative settings, David Hirshberg explores the American Jewish experience in this evocative novel of self-discovery, belonging, and the complexities of identity.” - **Shulem Deen**, author of *All Who Go Do Not Return*

“In *Jacobo’s Rainbow*, as he did in *My Mother’s Son*, David Hirshberg explores that stunning moment when youth gives way to maturity—and uncovers the lasting effects of that profound transformation.... A highly original novel by an inspired chronicler of fact and fiction that reveals our darkest instincts while celebrating our innate humanity.” - **Barbara Josselsohn**, author of *The Last Dreamer*

“*Jacobo’s Rainbow* is a powerful, electrifying glimpse into the life of a young student advocating for the Free Speech Movement and protesting the Vietnam War.... Hirshberg’s keenly nuanced characters will remain with the reader long after the last page.” - **Crystal King**, author of *The Chef’s Secret* and *Feast of Sorrow*

### ABOUT THE BOOK

*Jacobo's Rainbow* is an historical literary novel set primarily in the nineteen sixties during the convulsive period of the student protest movements and the Vietnam War. It focuses on the issue of being an outsider the 'other' an altogether common circumstance that resonates with readers in today's America. It is a story of triumph over adversity (hypocrisy, loss, lies, murder, concealment, prejudice) that is told with vivid descriptions, perceptive insights, humor, and sensitivity, which enables the reader to identify with the characters who come to life in a realistic fashion to illustrate who we are, how we behave, and what causes us to change.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Hirshberg, educated at Dartmouth College, and the University of Pennsylvania, is a very successful entrepreneur—a former CEO and Chairman of the Board of several major Life Sciences companies—who writes under a pseudonym. He is an historical fiction writer who writes about the American Jewish experience. His first novel, *My Mother’s Son* published in 2018 won nine awards and reviewers compared his writing to Michael Chabon and Saul Bellow.

ISBN: 9781941493281/ Hardcover / 352 Pages / Price: \$19.95

E-ISBN:9781941493298 / E-Book / 352 Pages / Price: \$9.95

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