

National Jewish Book Awards Go Global!

2007 Winners Represent Six Countries

57th Annual Awards Ceremony to be Held on March 4th in NYC

James Kugel Wins Top Prize for *How to Read the Bible*
Harold Kushner Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

For Immediate Release

Contact: Shira Dicker
212.663.4643/917.403.3989
shira.dicker@sd-media.com

New York, NY. January 9, 2008 – With winners in twenty categories hailing from six countries this year, the 57th Annual National Jewish Book Awards takes on an international flavor. It is also perhaps no coincidence that a quarter of the 2007 winners are Israeli authors with Israel's 60th anniversary on the horizon.

This year's top honorees for the oldest Jewish literary award in the nation are **James L. Kugel**, winner of the Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award for *How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now* (Free Press); and **Rabbi Harold Kushner**, winner of the Jewish Book Council Lifetime Achievement Award .

Dr. Kugel and Rabbi Kushner – as well as **eighteen other winners** in as many categories -- will be honored on **March 4th, 2008** at a gala award ceremony, to be held at the **Center for Jewish History in Manhattan, located at 15 W.16th Street.**

In celebration of Israel's upcoming 60th Anniversary, a special Israeli-themed musical performance will be featured as part of the National Jewish Book Awards program. **The awards ceremony, which begins at 7:30 p.m., is free and open to the public but seating is limited.**

As in years past, acclaimed authors **Samuel G. Freedman** and **Ari L. Goldman**, who both serve on the faculty of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, will serve as joint masters of ceremonies.

Other top winners for the 2007 National Jewish Book Award include **Meir Shalev**, in the Fiction category, for his novel *A Boy and a Pigeon* (Schocken Books); **George Konrad** in the Biography, Autobiography & Memoir category, for his book *A Guest in my Own Country: A Hungarian Life* (Other Press); **Michael Makovsky** in History for *Churchill's Promised Land: Zionism and Statecraft* (Yale University Press); **Edward Kaplan** in American Jewish Studies for *Spiritual Radical: Abraham Joshua Heschel in America* (Yale University Press); and **Vanessa Ochs** in the Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice category for *Inventing Jewish Ritual* (Jewish Publication Society).

A complete list of winners of the 2007 National Jewish Book Awards follows.

2007 National Jewish Book Award Winners

Everett Family Foundation

Jewish Book of the Year Award

How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now

James L. Kugel

Free Press

Jewish Book Council Lifetime Achievement Award

Rabbi Harold S. Kushner

American Jewish Studies

Celebrate 350 Award

Winner:

Spiritual Radical: Abraham Joshua Heschel in America

Edward K. Kaplan

Yale University Press

Finalists:

The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America

Beth Wenger

Doubleday

Let Us Prove Strong: The American Jewish Committee, 1945-2006

Marianne Sanua

Brandeis University Press

Anthologies and Collections

Winner:

Antisemitism: The Generic Hatred: Essays in Memory of Simon Wiesenthal

Michael Fineberg, Shimon Samuels & Mark Weitzman, eds.

Vallentine Mitchell

Finalists:

An Anthology of Jewish-Russian Literature: Two Centuries of Dual Identity in Prose and Poetry, Two-Volume Set

Maxim D. Shrayer, ed.

M.E. Sharpe Publishers

Wrestling with God: Jewish Theological Responses During and After the Holocaust

Steven T. Katz, Shlomo Biderman, & Gershon Greenberg, eds.

Oxford University Press

Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir

In Memory of Simon Goldberg & Shulamith (Sofi) Goldberg

Winner:

A Guest in my Own Country: A Hungarian Life

George Konrad

Other Press

Finalists:

They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland before the Holocaust

Mayer Kirshenblatt and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett

University of California Press

Marc Chagall

Jonathan Wilson

Schocken Books/Nextbook

Children's and Young Adult Literature

Winner:

Homeland: The Illustrated History of the State of Israel

Marv Wolfman, Mario Ruiz, and William Rubin

Nachshon Press

Finalists:

Hitler's Canary

Sandi Toksvig

Roaring Brook Press

A Shout in the Sunshine

Mara Cohen Ioannides

Jewish Publication Society

Contemporary Jewish Life & Practice

Winner:

Inventing Jewish Ritual

Vanessa Ochs

Jewish Publication Society

Finalists:

Celebrating the Jewish Year

Paul Steinberg

Jewish Publication Society

Jews & Judaism in the 21st Century: Human Responsibility, the Presence of God and the Future of the Covenant

Rabbi Edward Feinstein

Jewish Lights Publishing

Eastern European Studies

Ronald S. Lauder Award

Winner:

An Anthology of Jewish-Russian Literature: Two Centuries of Dual Identity in Prose and Poetry, Two-Volume Set

Maxim D. Shrayer, ed.

M.E. Sharpe Publishers

Finalists:

My Dear Daughter: Rabbi Benjamin Slonik and the Education of Jewish Women in Sixteenth-Century Poland

Edward Fram

Hebrew Union College Press

They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland before the Holocaust

Mayer Kirshenblatt and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett

University of California Press

Fiction

Winner:

A Pigeon and a Boy
Meir Shalev
Schocken Books

Finalists:

If You Awaken Love
Emuna Elon
Toby Press

The Septembers of Shiraz
Dalia Sofer
HarperCollins

Farewell, Shanghai
Angel Wagenstein
Other Press

History

Gerrard and Ella Berman Memorial Award

Winner:

Churchill's Promised Land: Zionism and Statecraft
Michael Makovsky
Yale University Press

Finalists:

Power, Faith, and Fantasy: America in the Middle East: 1776 to the Present
Michael B. Oren
W.W. Norton

Holocaust

Winner:

Hitler's Beneficiaries: Plunder, Racial War, and the Nazi Welfare State
Götz Aly
Metropolitan Books

Finalists:

The Years of Extermination: Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1939-1945
Saul Friedländer
HarperCollins

*Who Will Write our History?: Emanuel Ringelblum, the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Oyneg
Shabes Archive*
Samuel D. Kassow
Indiana University Press

Illustrated Children's Books

Louis Posner Memorial Award

Winner:

Even Higher
Richard Ungar
Tundra Books of Northern New York

Finalists:

The Bedtime Sh'ma: A Good Night Book
Adapted by Sarah Gershman; Kristina Swarner, illus.
EKS Publishing

Jewish Family Literature

In Memory of Dorothy Kripke

Winner:

Power of Song: And Other Sephardic Tales
Rita Roth; Alexa Ginsburg, illus.
Jewish Publication Society

Finalists:

A Hanukkah Present
Mark Binder
Light Publications

Modern Jewish Thought & Experience

Dorot Foundation Award In Memory of Joy Ungerleider Mayerson

Winner:

My People's Prayer Book Series
Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, ed.
Jewish Lights Publishing

Finalists:

Jews and Power
Ruth R. Wisse
Schocken Books/Nextbook

Zion in the Desert: American Jews in Israel's Reform Kibbutzim
William F.S. Miles
State University of New York Press

Poetry

Winner:

The Dream of the Poem: Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain, 950-1492
Peter Cole, ed.
Princeton University Press

Special Recognition:

Collected Poems 1947-1997
Allen Ginsberg
HarperCollins

Finalist:

Drunk from the Bitter Truth: The Poems of Anna Margolin
Anna Margolin; Shirley Kumove, trans./ed.
SUNY Press

Reference

Winner:

The Cambridge History of Judaism, Vol. 4: The Late Roman-Rabbinic Period

Steven T. Katz, ed.

Cambridge University Press

Finalists:

The Encyclopedia of Jewish Myth, Magic, and Mysticism

Rabbi Geoffrey W. Dennis

Llewellyn Worldwide

The Hadassah Jewish Family Book of Health and Wellness

Robin Berman, Arthur Kurzweil, Dale L. Mintz

Jossey Bass Publishing

Scholarship

Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award

Winner:

Ben: Sonship and Jewish Mysticism

Moshe Idel

Continuum

Finalists:

What Happened to the Children Who Fled Nazi Persecution

Gerhard Sonnert and Gerald Holton

Palgrave Macmillan

Christ Killers: The Jews and the Passion from the Bible to the Big Screen

Jeremy Cohen

Oxford University Press

Sephardic Culture

Mimi S. Frank Award in Memory of Becky Levy

Winner:

Aromas of Aleppo: The Legendary Cuisine of Syrian Jews

Poopa Dweck

Ecco/HarperCollins

Finalists:

The Dream of the Poem: Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain, 950-1492

Peter Cole, ed.

Princeton University Press

Visual Arts

Winner:

Gilded Lions and Jeweled Horses: The Synagogue to the Carousel

Murray Zimiles

Brandeis University Press

Finalists:

Eva Hesse Sculpture

Elisabeth Sussman and Fred Wasserman

Yale University Press/The Jewish Museum

They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland before the Holocaust

Mayer Kirshenblatt and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett

University of California Press

Women's Studies

Barbara Dobkin Award

Winner:

Feminism Encounters Traditional Judaism: Resistance and Accommodation

Tova Hartman

Brandeis University Press

Finalists:

Houses of Study: A Jewish Woman Among Books

Ilana M. Blumberg

University of Nebraska Press

Tell Me Another Morning: An Autobiographical Novel

Zdena Berger

Paris Press

About the Jewish Book Council

Since 1943, the Jewish Book Council has been the only organization in the American Jewish community exclusively devoted to promoting Jewish literature. An autonomous agency since 1994, the Council, which maintains a national Executive Board of Directors, currently headed by president Lawrence J. Krule, serves as a catalyst for the writing, publication, distribution, reading and public awareness of books reflecting the rich variety of Jewish experience. The publisher of *Jewish Book World*, the Jewish counterpart of *Publishers Weekly*, the Council is also responsible for coordinating the nation-wide celebration of Jewish Book Month, traditionally held in the thirty days preceding Hanukkah, and for maintaining the Jewish Book NETWORK.

For further information on the 57th Annual National Jewish Book Awards, on the winners of this year's awards, or on the Jewish Book Council, please contact Shira Dicker at 212.663.4643, 917.403.3989 or at shira.dicker@sd-media.com or visit www.jewishbookcouncil.org.