

# Pittsburgh Jewish Book Festival

## Congregation Beth Shalom

November 8 to 13, 2025



5915 Beacon St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 | BethShalomPgh.org

# WELCOME TO OUR 2025 PITTSBURGH JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

Welcome! We are proud to host the 2025 Pittsburgh Jewish Book Festival. These challenging times call for gathering our diverse community to celebrate Jewish culture and traditions and to engage in civil discourse. Our festival includes authors from around the corner and around the globe, and our 2025 program includes children's books, academics, journalists, artists, cookbooks, Yiddish stories, klezmer and Bob Dylan's music.

Join us and be inspired!



Shari R. Woldenberg

Derekh Coordinator, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Festival Director

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING WHO MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE

Carolyn Slayton and Seth Glick  
Jewish Book Council



Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle  
Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh



## THANK YOU TO JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PITTSBURGH FUNDS

### ARTHUR J. & BETTY F. DISKIN CULTURAL ENDOWMENT FUND



Early in her career as a teacher and graduate student at NYU, Betty Diskin eagerly partook of Broadway shows, operas, ballets and concerts. Moving to Pittsburgh in 1952, she continued her lifelong love of the performing arts and was herself active in local theater, including the Little Lake Theater and the original Pittsburgh Playhouse. She never stopped studying and learning and earned her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh later in life.

Betty and her husband, Arthur Diskin, a highly respected attorney, were enthusiastic and generous supporters of the cultural and civic organizations of the Pittsburgh community.

After the tragic loss of her husband, Arthur, and their two sons, William Diskin and Robert Diskin, Betty felt strongly about creating a legacy to honor their memory. Betty established the Arthur J. and Betty F. Diskin Cultural Endowment Fund to be administered by the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. The goal of the Fund is to reflect the Jewish values of cultural literacy and increased understanding of humanity through the support of cultural, educational, literary and civic organizations of the Pittsburgh community, particularly those organizations devoted to music and theater.

### STEELTREEFUND

The SteelTree Fund's purpose is to strengthen the Jewish community of Pittsburgh by funding new and inventive programs and initiatives.

# THANK YOU LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ronna Harris Askin  
Mark Frisch  
Seth Glick  
Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman

Chris Hall  
Bob Halperin  
Eleanor Hershberg  
Beth Kissileff

Jean Reznick  
Toby Tabachnick  
Nancy Tuckfelt  
Ray Wallach

# THANK YOU BETH SHALOM STAFF

# THANK YOU COMMUNITY PARTNERS



# BOOK FESTIVAL PRICING OPTIONS AND PRE-SALE BOOKS

To attend, you must pre-register by scanning the QR code or visiting,  
[BethShalomPgh.org/2025-Jewish-Book-Festival](http://BethShalomPgh.org/2025-Jewish-Book-Festival).

## \$180 Pass Plus

Includes meet & greets for headliners and access to all book festival events

## All Festival Pass - \$18 each

Includes access to all book festival events

Children under 16 are Free

## Single headliner events are \$10 each

Headliners include Sam Sussman, Dr. Ilan Stavans, Joshua Leifer,  
Jonathan Harounoff and Dr. Jeremy Dauber.

## FREE Admission

Includes access to all non-headliner events: the local author showcase, sponsored  
speaker Adam Sobsey, zoom lunch and children and family program.

To preorder books, visit Riverstone books at [www.riverstonebookstore.com](http://www.riverstonebookstore.com)



# SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

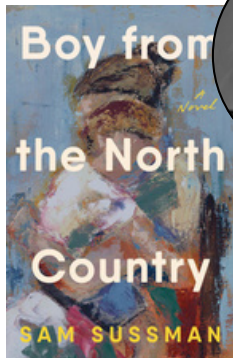
## OPENING NIGHT

Join us for the opening night of the 2025 Pittsburgh Jewish Book Festival with author, Sam Sussman, who was recently reviewed in the Goodreads section of the New York Times.

**7:00 p.m. - 7:20 p.m. - *Havdalah* and a moment of silence in commemoration of 18<sup>th</sup> of Cheshvan**

**7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. - Sam Sussman in the Samuel & Minnie Hyman Ballroom**

**8:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Book signing, desserts & Bob Dylan music**



### ***Boy from the North Country* by Sam Sussman**

When Evan, 26, is suddenly called home from his life abroad to the secluded farmhouse where he was raised by his mother, June, there is so much he does not yet know. He doesn't know his mother is dying. He still doesn't know the identity of his biological father or the elusive story of his mother's creatively intense, emotionally turbulent romance with Bob Dylan, whom Evan reveres as an artist and whom strangers have long insisted he resembles. He doesn't know the secrets of his mother's life before he was born or what drove her to leave New York City for a completely different existence.

In this deeply moving debut novel, Sam Sussman writes one of the most tender and intimate mother-son relationships of our era. Caring for his mother as her illness worsens, and as she begins to tell him truths he has waited so long to hear, Evan comes to understand the startling gift this extraordinary woman has bequeathed him.

Sam Sussman grew up in the Hudson Valley. He graduated with a BA from Swarthmore College and an MPhil from the University of Oxford and has lived in Berlin and Jerusalem. His writing has been recognized by BAFTA and published in Harper's Magazine. Sam has taught writing seminars in India, Chile, and England and participated in the PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature. He lives in the Yorkville neighborhood of Manhattan and his native Hudson Valley.





# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

## CHILDREN & FAMILY PROGRAM



10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

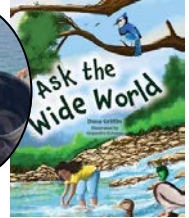
Samuel & Minnie Hyman Ballroom

Join us for Storytime and kid-friendly activities as we welcome new author Dana Griffin co-sponsored by the Beth Shalom Early Learning Center and PJ Library.

### *Ask the Wide World*

by Dana Griffin

Illustrated by Alejandro Echavez



There once was a little girl who was full of questions.

What? How? Why? The little girl is so full of questions that they run out of her mind like water overflowing from a tub. So full of questions that they pour out of her mouth from the second she wakes up until the moment she falls asleep. So full of questions that she's unable to find anyone who can possibly answer them all. Until, one day, she learns a secret that leads her to the answers she is looking for.



## FESTIVAL BOOK SALE WITH RIVERSTONE BOOKS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

10:30 AM - 6:00 PM

PALKOVITZ LOBBY

Books are available to preorder  
through Riverstone Books.

To preorder, visit [www.riverstonebookstore.com](http://www.riverstonebookstore.com) or by scan QR code.



# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

## LOCAL AUTHOR BOOKSHELF

From Centre to Periphery and Beyond



### ***From Centre to Periphery and Beyond* by Dr. Jonathan Zisook**

**1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m., Helfant Chapel**

"From Centre to Periphery and Beyond" employs a fluid and interpretive understanding of the concepts of center and periphery as a theoretical framework for studying the history and memory sites. Chapters examine the Mauthausen, Dachau, Bergen-Belsen, Ravensbrück and Jasenovac concentration camps, the Warsaw Ghetto, the Riga Ghetto and more. The authors offer timely interventions into the use of visual sources and archival materials, explore perpetration and collaboration as transnational and political categories, and examine contested legacies of the Holocaust, post-war commemorative practices, pedagogy and memorialization. Together, the chapters in this volume invite a conceptual reconsideration of center and periphery in the study of the Holocaust.

Jonathan Zisook is the assistant teaching professor of religious studies at the University of Pittsburgh. He is a sociologist of religion and a scholar of the Holocaust and its aftermath in East Central Europe. Jonathan is the co-editor of "From Centre to Periphery and Beyond: The History and Memory of National Socialist Camps and Killing Sites" (2024). He is also completing a monograph on the politics of Holocaust memory in contemporary Poland and co-authoring a book on Holocaust museums and Jewish identity in the United States.

### ***Law, Literature & History* by Dr. Richard H. Weisberg**

**2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m., Helfant Chapel**

Close readings of acclaimed 20th-century novels and lesser known but stunning works of popular culture uniquely situate us to understand the clash of religious values that led to genocide in World War II Europe (including Great Britain). The author further engages pre-Shoah writers, such as Shakespeare and Melville, signposts to seismic conflicts in law and religion. Law and literature methods permit the author to uncover the falsehood and antisemitic violence emerging, from longstanding religious differences. Inspired by James Carroll ("Constantine's Sword"), Harold Bloom ("Jesus and Yahweh"), and Franklin Littell ("The Crucifixion of the Jews"), Weisberg provokes readers, through reengagement with a series of superb stories, to see in all of them millennia of atrocities' disguised as "Judeo-Christian" affinity. As in his "Vichy Law and the Holocaust in France" (NYU; Gordon & Breach), the author again utilizes archival materials from the wartime period, integrating them into his close readings of fiction.

Richard H. Weisberg is the emeritus professor of constitutional law, Cardozo Law School, Yeshiva University and currently the distinguished visiting professor of law and literature, Carnegie Mellon University. He litigates in U.S. Federal courts on behalf of Holocaust survivors and their heirs and has been successful in suits against French banks for theft of Jews during WWII. For that work he was awarded the French Legion of Honor in 2008. He was an Obama appointee to a presidential commission on the preservation of U.S. assets abroad and helped renovate and dedicate a Jewish cemetery in the shtetl town near Kiev of his father's birth.



# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

## PANEL DISCUSSION

*Join authors and friends, Audrey Glickman and Howie Ehrlichman, for a panel discussion as they each discuss their books.*



### **Pockets by Audrey Glickman**

**3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m., Helfant Chapel**

"POCKETS: The Problem with Society is in Women's Clothing" is written and illustrated by Audrey N. Glickman. "We have a pervasive despair: despair for a pocket, despair about a pocket," the author

proclaims right off the bat. "Seems like everything is affected by pockets." (Or the lack thereof.) And this is just as we have become a society rife with pocket devices, she reminds us. Glickman's astute, angst-filled, quirky observations are cleverly enhanced by her illustrations – smart and spare as a New Yorker magazine cartoon. This book is as original as it gets – well-seasoned with spot-on truths that will have you examining every garment, purse and backpack in your closet.

A lifelong resident of Pittsburgh, Audrey N. Glickman has worked productively at many day jobs. Audrey has previously served as rabbi's assistant to Rabbi Adelson, as Chief of Staff to a Pittsburgh City Council president, and before that worked with the prior Council President Doug Shields in 2007 on his post-agenda hearing concerning domestic violence, bringing to the table professionals, service providers, advocates and interested parties from all sides of the issue.

### **Not a Bad Trip: A Pittsburgh Cab Story** **by Howie Ehrlichman**

**3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m., Helfant Chapel**

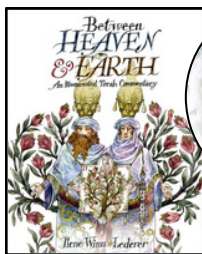


In 1977, Howie landed a summer job to offset college expenses. Forty years later, he finished his shift. "Not a Bad Trip: A Pittsburgh Cab Story" invites you along for the ride, offering an intimate view inside this often maligned and misunderstood profession. The stories provide snapshots across each decade, from the era of yellow Checker dinosaurs ruling city streets through the inevitable transformation into today's Uber economy. We encounter people from all walks of life, uncovering the humanity inside well-known celebrities while discovering the extraordinary within ordinary folks. "Not a Bad Trip" unravels mysteries forever pondered by great philosophers, like: How do I hail a cab? What makes the airport 'The Promised Land?' Why does my mediocre rideshare driver have five stars? And even the perennial 'How much should I tip?' Relax. Enjoy the trip. And, absolutely, look out the windows, as the setting—Pittsburgh, becomes the star of the show.

**Sponsored by**



# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9



## ***Between Heaven & Earth: An Illuminated Torah Commentary*** **by Ilene Winn-Lederer** **4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m., Helfant Chapel**

Artist Ilene Winn-Lederer's conception of "Between Heaven and Earth: An Illuminated Torah Commentary" had its roots in the unique invitation she designed for her son's bar mitzvah in the 1980s. The tri-fold card incorporated themes from the Torah, the Haftorah, and the commentaries on both books, and it led to many commissions for artworks based on themes from Jewish liturgy. Eventually this cumulative body of work inspired her to illuminate the complete Torah, and for five years she focused her studies and extraordinary illustrative skills on the creation of this book.

The first five books of the Bible, the Torah, are divided into 54 portions, or *parashiyot* (singular *parashah*). Each week of the Jewish year, a portion is read and studied; every Jewish congregation in the world reads from the same *parashah* each week, and the Torah is read in sequence through the year.

Ilene Winn-Lederer attended the Museum School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. Her works are in private and public collections throughout the United States and Europe. She has taught illustration and design at Carnegie Mellon University and The Ivy School of Professional Art. She lives in Pittsburgh.

## ***Mythic Judaism* by Chris Hall** **5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Helfant Chapel**

*Mythic Judaism* is both a work of modern midrash and a roleplaying sourcebook.



Midrash is the Jewish tradition of expanding and elaborating on a text to create new stories with new meaning. Midrash tells stories that could have been true, should have been true, or maybe were never true, but still enrich our lives.

Roleplaying is a modern communal storytelling tradition that gives participants an opportunity to create a shared story. Dungeons and Dragons is the most well known roleplaying system, but there are many others, including a mythical historical system set in the Middle Ages called *Ars Magica*, used by this project.

*Mythic Judaism* combines midrash with roleplaying to imagine the Jewish Middle Ages as they might have been. The book starts from the traditional rabbinic sources of the period, but it also includes some lesser known sources that help understand the lives of queer Jews and female Jews of the period.

By combining midrashic and roleplaying techniques *Mythic Judaism* gives readers the tools to tell stories of the many different kinds of Jews who lived across Europe eight hundred years ago.

Chris Hall is a computer programmer, paleontologist, game designer, and student of Judaism. He is interested in exploring lesser known Jewish history and giving his fellow Jews tools to understand their past. He has published games that explore gambling, magical hotels, and Yom Kippur, and has been nominated for an ENNIE. He lives in Pittsburgh with his wife and daughter where he attends Congregation Beth Shalom.

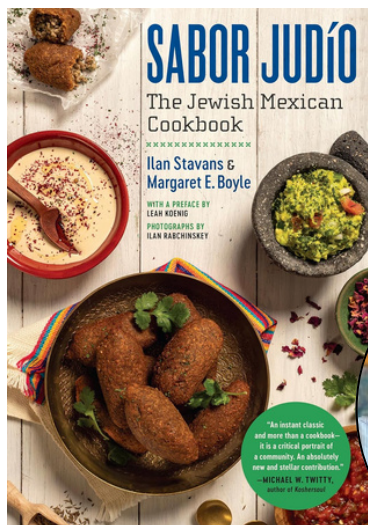
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

## HEADLINER SPEAKER



### ***Sabor Judío: The Jewish Mexican Cookbook***

**by co-author Ilan Stavans**

**7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.**

**Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary**

**Introduced by Mark Frisch**

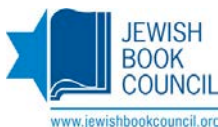


“Sabor Judío” celebrates the delicious fusion of two culinary traditions, Jewish and Mexican. Written with joy and verve, Ilan Stavans and Margaret Boyle’s lavishly illustrated cookbook demonstrates how cooking and eating connect Jewish Mexicans across places and generations. Featuring 100 deeply personal recipes enjoyed by Jewish Mexicans around the world, the book is organized by meal—*desayuno* (breakfast), *comida* (lunch), and *cena* (dinner)—and also includes dishes made for Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Passover, Hanukkah, Shavuot, and other holidays.

“Sabor Judío” isn’t only a cookbook; it is also a vibrant history of Jewish immigration to Mexico from 1492 to the present. It explains how flavors and dishes evolved in Mexican and Jewish kitchens and how they fused into a distinct cuisine, mainly by the labor of Ashkenazi, Sephardic, Mizrahi and converso women. This cookbook is the product of two award-winning, internationally known Jewish Mexican writers and foodies who spent a decade gathering recipes and personal narratives from Jewish Mexican households. The result is a dynamic and delicious array of recipes and experiences, infusing important cultural heritage into this essential culinary record.

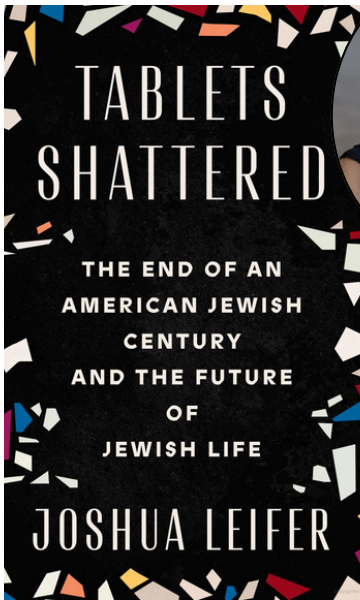
Ilan Stavans is Lewis-Sebring professor in Latin American and Latino Culture at Amherst College. Ilan Stavans has taught courses on a wide array of topics such as Spanglish, Jorge Luis Borges, Shakespeare in prison, modern American poetry, Latin music, “Don Quixote”, Gabriel García Márquez, “Modernismo”, popular culture in Hispanic America, world Jewish writers, the cultural history of the Spanish language, Pablo Neruda, the history of the Spanish language, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Yiddish literature, Jewish-Hispanic relations, cinema, Latin American art, and U.S.-Latino culture.

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**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

## **HEADLINER SPEAKER**



***Tablets Shattered: The End of an American Jewish Century and the Future of Jewish Life***  
**by Joshua Leifer**

**7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.**

**Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary  
Introduced by Rabbi Seth Adelson**

"Tablets Shattered" is Joshua Leifer's lively and personal history of the fractured American Jewish present. Formed in the middle decades of the 20th century, the settled-upon pillars of American Jewish self-definition (Americanism, Zionism and liberalism) have begun to collapse. The binding trauma of Holocaust memory grows ever-more attenuated; soon there will be no living survivors. After two millennia of Jewish life defined by diasporic existence, the majority of the world's Jews will live in a sovereign Jewish state by 2050. Against the backdrop of national political crises, resurgent global antisemitism, and the horrors of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, Leifer provides an illuminating and meticulously reported map of contemporary Jewish life and a sober conjecture about its future.

Joshua Leifer is a journalist and historian. A regular contributor to "Haaretz", "The New York Review of Books", and "The Guardian", his essays and reporting have also appeared in "The New York Times", "The Nation", "The New Statesman", and elsewhere. His first book, "Tablets Shattered: The End of an American Jewish Century and the Future of Jewish Life", won a National Jewish Book Award. He is also a doctoral candidate in history at Yale University, where his research examines the politics of antisemitism and the collapse of the post-1989 liberal international order.

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# TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

## SPONSORED SPEAKER



### ***A Jewish Appendix: A Memoir*** **by Adam Sobsey**

**7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.**

**Introduced by Eric Lidji**

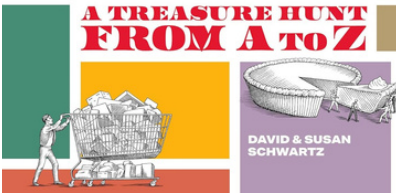
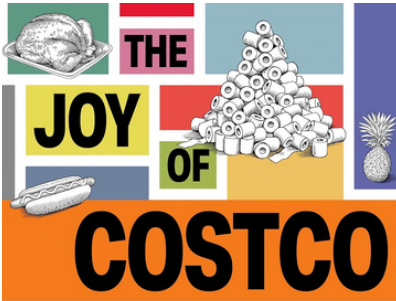
In 1910, Adam Sobsey's great-grandparents fled antisemitic persecution in Romania and immigrated to Pittsburgh, where they settled in the Hill District and joined their fellow immigrants' recently established "Big Romania Shul" -- *Oir Hudish*, known today as New Light Congregation, of which three subsequent generations of Sobsey's family were members. More than a century after his great-grandparents' immigration, Sobsey, who was raised nonobservant in the American South, went to Romania out of idle curiosity to see the land of his ancestors. Unprepared for the ravages of tragedy and time on what had once been a thriving Jewish population in the province of Moldavia, he was overcome in body and spirit by the loss of his heritage and his own lifelong separation from his Jewish roots. After he recovered and returned home to the U.S., he immersed himself in a midlife reckoning with the power and paradox of Jewish identity and the complexities of the Hebrew Bible and Jewish literature. Finally he went for an extended sojourn in Pittsburgh, where his search for last clues about his family's origins led him all the way back to New Light.

"A Jewish Appendix" is a warmly narrated novelistic blend of memoir, travelogue, history, and literary meditation, by turns spare and lyrical, enriched by lightly worn erudition and leavened with wry comedy. Sobsey's chronicle of his unplanned inquest into Jewish identity and belonging is "unique, thrilling," in the words of Mark Oppenheimer, author of "Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood". It's a book for Jews and non-Jews alike -- for anyone who has come face to face with the deceptively unsettling question: "Who am I?"

**Co-sponsored by**



**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12**



***The Joy of Costco:  
A Treasure Hunt from A to Z***  
**by David & Susan Schwartz**  
**via Zoom**

**12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

**Bring a kosher dairy brown bag lunch and join us at Congregation Beth Shalom in the Samuel & Minnie Hyman Ballroom. Coffee, tea, water and a small sampling of Costco treats will be provided.**

*How is Costco able to keep the price of its foot-long hot dog at \$1.50 since 1985?  
Why is employee productivity twice that of comparable retailers?  
Why does Costco Japan have the largest bakery operation in the whole system?*

Join David and Susan to get the answers to these questions (and more), which they learned by visiting over 200 of Costco's more than 850 warehouses; at least one in every one of the 46 U.S. states where Costco operates plus Washington, DC and Puerto Rico, and 13 other countries.

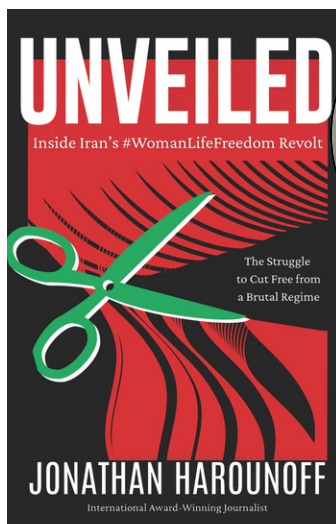
David and Susan Schwartz are the co-authors of "The Joy of Costco: A Treasure Hunt from A to Z". David is the author of several books, most recently "The Last Man Who Knew Everything: The Life and Times of Enrico Fermi", "Father of the Nuclear Age". He holds a BA from Stanford and a PhD from MIT. He has had a varied career, as a foreign policy specialist, an investment banker, an HR consultant, and an executive search professional. David spent much of his youth in San Francisco, where his parents were early members of Price Club, Costco's predecessor. Susan Schwartz received a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Columbia University and has worked in marketing at Nabisco and General Foods. After leaving corporate America, she worked freelance making TV commercials for 13 years before joining her husband, David, in executive search consulting. She worked as a professional baker for two years after college. She grew up in Philly where she delighted in shopping at Costco with her beloved parents.

**Co-sponsored by**



**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

## **HEADLINER SPEAKER**



### ***Unveiled: Inside Iran's #WomanLifeFreedom Revolt* by Jonathan Harounoff**

**7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.**

**Introduced by Lidush Goldschmidt**

In September 2022, 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman Mahsa Jina Amini is killed by Iran's morality police in Tehran for allegedly wearing her hijab too loosely. Outrage triggers nationwide protests. Women rip off their headscarves, setting them afire. Others cut their hair in open defiance. Key industries are brought to a standstill, and once-revered banners of the country's supreme leader are incinerated. It's the greatest challenge to the Islamic Republic of Iran in its 46-year history not coming from a foreign adversary but from their own freedom-seeking women. Women and girls, perhaps for the first time in the history of the modern Middle East, take center stage in a nationwide uprising, clamoring for a freer Iran and chanting the now-viral battle cry of: "Woman, Life, Freedom."

Acclaimed British-Iranian author Jonathan Harounoff serves as Israel's international spokesperson to the United Nations.

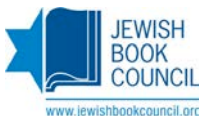
An Iran and Israel expert, Harounoff's articles and commentaries have appeared in "The New York Post", "Haaretz", "BBC", "Newsweek", "The LA Times", "The Jewish Chronicle", "NewsNation", "Fox News" and "Iran International".

He previously served in strategic communications roles at a Fortune 500 firm, as well as at an NGO focused on foreign affairs.

He holds a BA in Arabic, Persian and Middle Eastern history from Cambridge University, a master's in journalism from Columbia Journalism School and is also an alumnus of Harvard University, where he studied international relations and diplomacy.

"Unveiled: Inside Iran's #WomanLifeFreedom Revolt" is his debut book. He lives in New York City with his wife, Stephanie.

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# THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

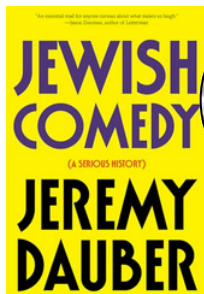
## CLOSING NIGHT

6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Klezmer music and snacks in the Samuel & Minnie Hyman Ballroom

7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Headliner speaks in the Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary



### ***Jewish Comedy: A Quick History from Abraham to Zero Molstel*** **by Dr. Jeremy Dauber**

In a major work of scholarship both erudite and very funny, Columbia professor Jeremy Dauber traces the origins of Jewish comedy and its development from biblical times to the age of Twitter. Organizing the product of Jews' comic imagination over continents and centuries into what he calls the seven strands of Jewish comedy—including the satirical, the witty, and the vulgar—he traces the ways Jewish comedy has mirrored, and sometimes even shaped, the course of Jewish history. Persecution, cultural assimilation, religious revival, diaspora, Zionism—all of these, and more, were grist for the Jewish comic mill; and Dauber's book takes readers on the tour of the funny side of some very serious business. (And vice versa.)

In a work of dazzling scope, readers will encounter comic masterpieces here that range from Talmudic rabbi jokes to medieval skits, Yiddish satires and Borscht Belt routines to scenes from "Seinfeld" and "Broad City", and the book of Esther to Adam Sandler's "Hanukkah Song." Dauber also explores the rise and fall of popular comic archetypes such as the Jewish mother, the Jewish American Princess, and the schlemiel, the schlimazel, and the schmuck, and the classic works of such masters of Jewish comedy as Sholem Aleichem, Isaac Babel, Franz Kafka, the Marx Brothers, Woody Allen, Joan Rivers, Philip Roth, Mel Brooks, Sarah Silverman, Jon Stewart, and Larry David, among many others.

Dr. Jeremy Dauber is the Atran Professor of Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture and, for a decade, directed the Institute of Israel and Jewish Studies at Columbia University; he is currently also the Mendelson Family Professor of American Studies and directs Columbia's Center for American Studies. He is the author of seven non-fiction books: "Antonio's Devils: Writers of the Jewish Enlightenment" and the "Birth of Modern Hebrew and Yiddish Literature" (Stanford University Press, 2004); "In the Demon's Bedroom: Yiddish Literature and the Early Modern" (Yale University Press; 2010); "The Worlds of Sholem Aleichem" (Schocken Books, 2013); "Jewish Comedy: A Serious History" (W.W. Norton, 2017); "American Comics: A History" (W.W. Norton: 2021); "Mel Brooks: Disobedient Jew" (Yale University Press: 2023); and, most recently, "American Scary: A History of Horror From Salem To Stephen King" and "Beyond" (Algonquin: 2024). He frequently lectures on topics related to Jewish literature, history, humor, and popular culture at the 92nd St Y and other venues throughout the United States. As J.A. Dauber, he writes fiction for young adults and middle-graders; his latest novel, "Press 1 For Invasion", is available now at bookstores everywhere.

**Co-Sponsored by**



University of  
Pittsburgh

Jewish Studies Program  
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences



# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

**Saturday 11/8/25**

## **OPENING NIGHT**

7:00p - 7:20p *Havdalah* & a moment of silence in commemoration of 18th of Cheshvan

## **HEADLINER**

7:30p - 8:45p **Sam Sussman**, *Boy from the North Country*

8:45p - 10:00p Book signing, desserts & Bob Dylan music

**Sunday 11/9/25**

10:30a - 6:00p Book Sale in Palkovitz Lobby with Riverstone Books

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILY PROGRAM**

10:00a - 11:00a **Storytime and kid-friendly activities with children's book author**

## **LOCAL AUTHOR BOOKSHELF, 1:00p - 5:45p**

1:00p - 1:45p **Dr. Jonathan Zisook**, *From Centre to Periphery and Beyond*

2:00p - 2:45p **Dr. Richard H. Weisberg**, *Law, Literature and History*

3:00p - 3:45p **Audrey Glickman**, *Pockets* & **Howie Ehrlichman**, *Not a Bad Trip?*

4:00p - 4:45p **Ilene Winn-Lederer**, *An Illuminated Torah Commentary*

5:00p - 5:45p **Chris Hall**, *Mythic Judaism*

## **HEADLINER**

7:30p - 8:45p **Dr. Ilan Stavans**, *Sabor Judío*

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Book Council and Congregation Beth Shalom

**Monday 11/10/25**

## **HEADLINER**

7:30p - 8:45p **Joshua Leifer**, *Tablets Shattered*

**Tuesday 11/11/25, Veteran's Day**

## **SPONSORED SPEAKER**

7:30p - 8:45p **Adam Sobsey**, *Jewish Appendix*

Co-sponsored by Rauh Jewish Archives and the Jewish Genealogical Society

**Wednesday 11/12/25**

12:00p - 1:15p **David and Susan Schwartz**, *The Joy of Costco*

David and Susan will be joining us via Zoom.

## **HEADLINER**

7:30p - 8:45p **Jonathan Harounoff**, *Unveiled*

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Book Council and Congregation Beth Shalom

**Thursday, 11/13/25**

## **CLOSING NIGHT**

6:30p - 7:15p Klezmer music and snacks

## **HEADLINER**

7:30p - 8:45p **Jeremy Dauber**, *Jewish Comedy*

Co-sponsored by University of Pittsburgh Jewish Studies Program, Yiddish Book Center and Rodef Shalom Congregation

**Book signings after all author presentations.**

**The Labyrinth of Learning artwork on the back cover  
is courtesy of Ilene Winn-Lederer.**

**Her artwork will be framed and given as gifts to our headlining speakers.**

