

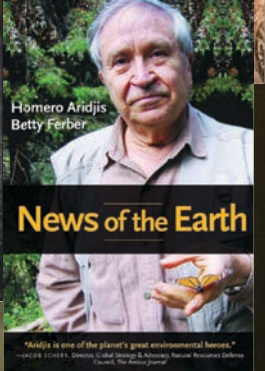
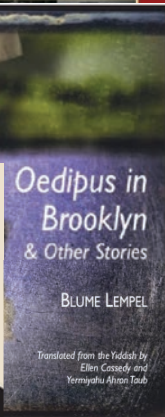
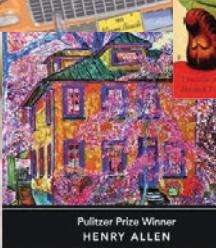
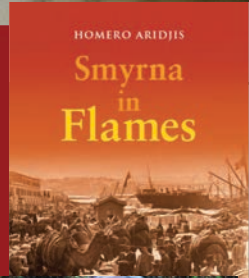
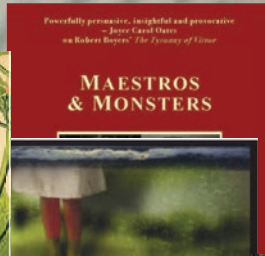
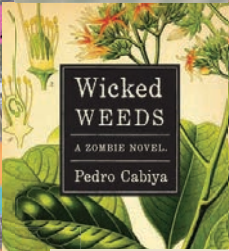
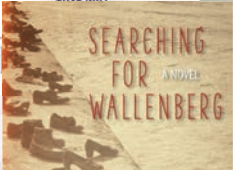
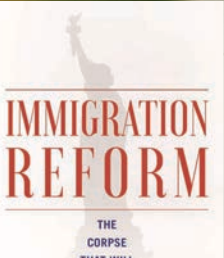
2024 BOOK CATALOG



MANDEL VILAR PRESS

501 (c) (3)

Advancing diversity and
conservation in publishing





MANDEL VILAR PRESS

501 (c) (3)

Advancing diversity and conservation in publishing

ABOUT MANDEL VILAR PRESS:

MVP is the publishing arm of **Americas for Conservation + the Arts**. Our press advances diversity and conservation in the publishing creative economy. Our award-winning press serves a critical role in making the stories of underrepresented communities and threatened ecosystems accessible to readers of all ages. To amplify these voices, we publish books across all genres, with a focus on conservation, Jewish history and culture, and authors of color. We also translate works from other languages into English, giving our readers even more opportunities to expand their world view and grow multicultural literacy. We are part of a powerful independent publishing network and have recently acquired two imprints to grow our house. Our titles are distributed by Consortium Book Sales and Distribution, a division of Ingram Books, the world's largest book distributor. Our authors, and their works have won numerous awards including: **Modern Language Association's Leviant Prize for the best Yiddish translated published book | Skipping Stones Magazine's annual Honor Award for Children's Multicultural literature | Latino International Book Award for the best book on Current Events | Foreword Reviews Gold Medal Winner for Historical Fiction.**

Robert A. Mandel, Publisher
Robert@mandelvilar.org

Irene Vilar, Co Publisher
AFCA, Founder & CEO
irene@americasforconservation.org

ABOUT AMERICAS FOR CONSERVATION AND THE ARTS:

Latina founded and led, AFC+A advances healthy communities through environmental and cultural stewardship that bridge the conservation and creative inclusion gaps and serve the most underserved. Since 2008 AFC+A's programs have been connecting communities to the health services of nature and the arts. www.afcanatura.org

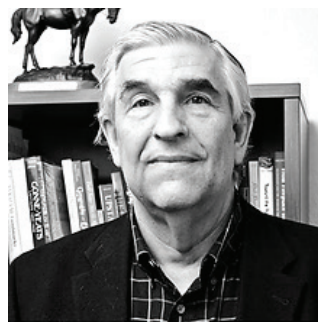
Trade Distribution: Consortium Book Sales and Distribution, now a division of Ingram Publisher Services. Call 800-283-3572 or Email orders can be sent to: Sales.Orders@cbsd.com

Individual Orders: Amazon.com, Bookshops.org or order on the shopping cart at Mandel Vilar Press's website at mvpublishers.org (free shipping anywhere in the USA)

Special Orders: Contact: Robert Mandel, Publisher at Robert@mvpublishers.org by phone: 806-790-4731 or by mail to **Mandel Vilar Press, 19 Oxford Court, Simsbury CT 06070**

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

2024 is my forty-sixth year as a book editor and publisher. Throughout my career I have helped publish over 400 books of Jewish writers of fiction and nonfiction—both scholarly and trade books. From 1979 to 2024, I was successively the 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 have published many Jewish writers and launched numerous special fiction and nonfiction Jewish book series in the areas of literature, history, politics, religion, philosophy, Holocaust, Israel, Folklore, anthropology, among other relevant subject. Areas. In 2013, I retired from university press publishing and moved to Simsbury, Connecticut. Encouraged by many former Jewish authors, in 2014 I launched a nonprofit literary trade publishing house, Mandel Vilar Press, (www.mvpublishers.org) and became the publishing arm of the nonprofit charity, Americas for Conservation + the Arts, (www.americasforconservation.org).



With Mandel Vilar Press (MVP) I have continued my efforts publishing important Jewish fiction and nonfiction. In 2016 MVP co-published several books with another fine literary press, Dryad Press. including Blume Lempel's *Oedipus in Brooklyn and Other Stories* (awarded The Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Prize sponsored by the MLA for the best published Yiddish translation) and, starting in 2019, MVP launched a new Jewish trade book imprint, MomentBooks, an exciting joint publishing venture with Moment Magazine— with two books on the Holocaust by and about Elie Wiesel and Theodore Bikel. In 2022, another Jewish publishing house, Fig Tree Books, joined MVP to become a new imprint under the same name with Frederic Price, the former publisher now serving as the Editor-in-Chief of MVP's latest new book imprint, Fig Tree Books—in May 2024 MVP will publish the first book in this new Imprint: Abigail Pogrebin and Rabbi Dov Linzer's book, *It Take Two to Torah: A Modern, Lively Conversation about The Five Books of Moses*.

MVP launched its new website and shopping cart at 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. Purchase books on our shopping cart and receive free shipping anywhere in the USA. Below I am pleased to present a special 2024 catalogue of our Holocaust fiction and nonfiction!

Sincerely,

Robert Mandel, PhD
Publisher, Mandel Vilar Press
April 15, 2024

MANDEL VILAR PRESS
501 (c) (3)
Advancing diversity and conservation in publishing

2024

MVP BOOKS ON THE HOLOCAUST

Why do we remember the Holocaust?
We remember because we must never forget the inhumanity of which humans are capable. We must also remember to call forth our human capacities for great acts of heroism, courage, and self-sacrifice.

75 Years after Auschwitz, Antisemitism is on the rise both in America and around the world. Attacking Jews has become socially acceptable—due, in part, to the rise of anti-Zionism in the wake of the Israeli-Hamas war but also due, in part, to the diminished public knowledge about the Holocaust. Jews around the world are wondering whether the solemn mantra of “Never Again, May become “Yet Again.”

For MVP, publishing books on or about the Holocaust has never been more important!



MVP 2024 Catalog

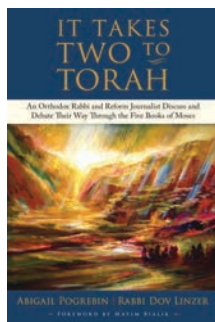
Books Index

Forthcoming Fall and Recent

- 1 [It Takes Two to Torah](#)
 - 2 [Still Life at Eighty, A Memoir.](#)
 - 3 [The Deadening, A Novel](#)
 - 4 [The Number on Your Forearm is Blue](#)
 - 5 [The Jewish Underground of Samarkand](#)
-

- 6 [Rewriting Illness](#)
 - 7 [Maestros & Monster](#)
 - 8 [The 23rd Psalm](#)
 - 9 [Pillar of Salt](#)
 - 10 [Smyrna in Flames, A Novel](#)
 - 11 [Asylum](#)
 - 12 [Hot Summer of 1968](#)
 - 13 [Doctor on Call](#)
 - 14 [Small Bibles for Bad Times](#)
 - 15 [I am my Mother's Daughter](#)
 - 16 [Can Robots be Jewish?](#)
 - 17 [Growing Up Below Sea Level](#)
 - 18 [Have I got a Cartoon](#)
 - 19 [The City of Light](#)
 - 20 [Elie Wiesel](#)
 - 21 [Immigration Reform](#)
 - 22 [The Berlin Woman](#)
 - 23 [My Real Name is Hanna](#)
 - 24 [Zion's Fiction](#)
 - 25 [Allan Appel, The Book of Norman](#)
 - 26 [Green was my Forest](#)
 - 27 [News of the Earth - Homero Aridjis and Betty Ferber](#)
 - 28 [Maria The Monarch - Homero Aridjis](#)
 - 29 [Where We Lived - Henry Allen](#)
 - 30 [Good Fortune Next Time - Will Wootten](#)
 - 31 [Kill the Ampaya - Dick Cluster](#)
 - 32 [13 Stradomska Street - Andy Potok](#)
 - 33 [Isra Isle - Nava Semel](#)
 - 34 [Wicked Weeds - Pedro Cabiya](#)
 - 35 [Oedipus in Brooklyn - Blume Lempel](#)
 - 36 [Questioning Return Jay Neugeboren,](#)
 - 37 [Max Baer and the Star of David - Jay Neugeboren](#)
 - 38 [How Sweet It Is! - Thane Rosenbaum](#)
 - 39 [Searching for Wallenberg - Alan Lelchuk](#)
 - 40 [Breaking Ground](#)
-

- 41 [Announcements](#)
 - 42 [About MVP + Fig Tree](#)
 - 43 [Saving Free Speech](#)
 - 44 [Compulsion](#)
 - 45 [My Jewish Year](#)
 - 46 [The Pawnbroker](#)
 - 47 [My Mother's Son](#)
 - 48 [Jacob's Rainbow](#)
 - 49 [Ariver Could Be A Tree](#)
 - 50 [The Book of Stone](#)
 - 51 [Safekeeping](#)
 - 52 [The Sea beach Line](#)
 - 53 [Prayers for the Living](#)
-
- 54 [Ordering / Donate](#)
[Directors / Advisory / Contact](#)



FORTHCOMING in Fall 2024

This book is the first original title to be co-published by Fig Tree Books and Mandel Vilar Press in this new trade book imprint.

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

"Abigail Pogrebin and Rabbi Dov Linzer illuminate the Torah through discussion in the most joyous, insightful, conversational way. They make what could be an academic concept—to investigate and discuss the true meaning of the Torah—into delightful banter, coming at it from two very different perspectives. They give us permission to question and interpret the layers of the text and in so doing, realize that it is the questioning that makes us human. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and learned so much along the way." - JULIANNA MARGULIES, Actor/Producer/Author

ABOUT THE BOOK

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.

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

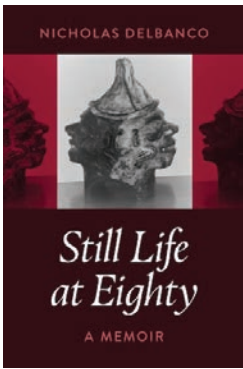
Rabbi Dov Linzer is the President and Rosh HaYeshiva (Rabbinic Head) of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah (YCT), an Orthodox rabbinical school and Torah center which promotes a more open and inclusive Orthodoxy. A leading Torah voice in the Modern Orthodox community, Rabbi Linzer serves as religious mentor to YCT's students and its over 200 rabbis in the United States and Israel.

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 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. She designed a neuroscience curriculum for homeschoolers in Southern California, where she also teaches middle and high school students. Married to her college sweetheart with two young sons, Bialik is also a Certified Lactation Education Counselor. Visit her at MayimBialik.net.

Hardcover / 6 x 9 / ISBN:9781941493342 / \$27.95

E-Book / ISBN 9781941493359 / \$12.99



FORTHCOMING in Fall 2024

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*, *The Thing About Life Is That One Day You'll Be Dead*, *Black Planet*, and

Other People: Takes & Mistakes

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.

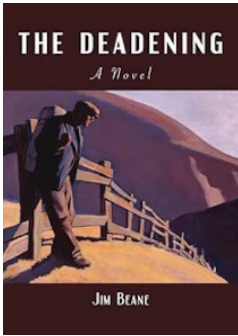
Delbanco finds solace in the things of this world: a Biedermeier desk, an Ekoi mask, and an instrument case that held the fabled Countess of Stanlein ex-Paganini Stradivarius Violoncello of 1707—all reminders of a treasured past. Together with these cherished artifacts, former homes, and the myriad writers 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.

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 [Photo: Courtesy of the Author] 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, 24 B&W photos, \$21.95
E-ISBN: 9781942134992 / 208 pp, 6 x 9 / E-Book / 24 B&W photos / \$9.99

FORTHCOMING in Fall 2024



The Deadening, A Novel

By Jim Beane

Anniversary of the ending of WWI.

A Co-Publication of Mandel Vilar Press & Dryad Press

ABOUT THE BOOK

Set in the early 1920s, this is the story of two American doughboys, both casualties, back from the World War One and the paths they travel — literal and existential.

In 1921, the shadow of WWI hangs over two American veterans' home from the war. Drafted doughboys, Harrell Hickman and Willem Redd, who find themselves in the northwestern territory of Nebraska on opposite sides of the law. Sheriff Redd suffers from physical shock, while Hickman lives with a little understood condition, then labelled as shell shock. They return home in a time of societal upheaval and their paths intersect in the town of Wisdom, where the bond of combat veterans is not enough to save them from tragedy.

Harrell Hickman walks away from an overcrowded veteran's hospital on the east coast where he has been hospitalized for "shell shock": he has no visible scars. Harrell has no family to return to, no ties to any community. His ability to cope largely depends on alcohol and laudanum. Hopping freights west, he ends up in Wisdom, a small Nebraskan town where he encounters Willem Redd, also a veteran. Redd grew up in Wisdom, is married with children, owns a mercantile, and serves as sheriff for the territory, despite his physical wounds: he lost an arm and an eye in the trenches. Unlike Hickman, he has the love of a wife and support from the community, which has helped him cope, though he too has been irrevocably damaged. Hickman goes to work for John Conover, a rancher, some distance from Wisdom. But Hickman's negligence and drug use results in two unexpected murders—the killing of Conover and the death of Conover's son. Sheriff Redd sets out for the ranch with his deputy Tim Smallwood to investigate and a fatal clash between the two ex-soldiers ensues.

This narrative tale will be complemented by uncaptioned photographs that evoke Hickman and Redd's lives during trench warfare in Europe and after returning to the U.S. The issues raised in *The Deadening* remain relevant to today's readers as many American veterans continue to face the overwhelming psychological challenges that battle thrust them into.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jim Beane is a fiction writer. His stories revolve around working class people in working class settings to illuminate their American dream and the costs all people pay to live that dream. Jim lives west of Baltimore, Maryland with his wife and family. His short stories have appeared in more than 25 literary publications, including *The MacGuffin*, *El Portal*, *The Baltimore Review*, *The Potomac Review*, *The Evening Street Review* and the anthologies *DC Noir* and *Workers Write: tales from the construction site. By the Sea*, his award-winning short story collection, is available on Amazon, Kindle and Smashwords. He worked his days in the construction industry as a painter, electrician, laborer, and master carpenter. Currently, he is an instructor at the Writers Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and a mentor for the Veterans Writing Project. Pre-covid, he created and taught a creative writing class for the Armed Services Arts Partnership. Find out more at <http://www.jimbeane.com>.

ISBN: 9781942134947. Paper with French flaps, 5-3/8 X 7-1/2, 160 pp. est., 13 B&W photographs, Price: \$21.95

ISBN: 9781942134954. eBook, 160 pp. est., 13 B&W photographs, \$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

“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.

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.” 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 Sultanic, 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.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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 in 1966, and managed, with difficulty, to leave Soviet-controlled Czechoslovakia and settle with her husband in Munich. Eva spoke at the 2011 commemoration ceremony in Auschwitz.

Stefanie Oswald 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. Have been awarded numerous translation prizes, including the Helen and Kurt Wolff Translator’s Prize.

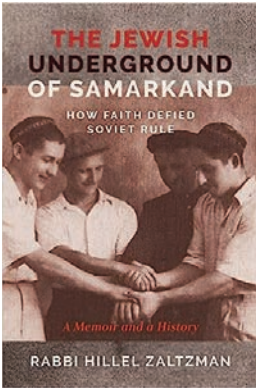
Michael Brenner is the Seymour and Lillian Abensohn Chair in Israel Studies and director of American University’s Center for Israel Studies. . He is the co-author of the four-volume *German-Jewish History in Modern Times*, for which he was awarded a National Jewish Book Award. In addition, he is the 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.

ISBN: 9781942134961; Paper with Flaps; 240 pp., 24 B&W photos, 6x9, \$24.95

E- ISBN: 9781942134978; Ebook; \$9.99

Lorem ipsum



The Jewish Underground of Samarkand

How Faith Defied Soviet Rule

by Rabbi Hillel Zaltzman

“Zaltzman’s stirring memoir, which was originally published in 2015 as *Samarkand* and has been condensed for this new edition, recounts his attempts to preserve Jewish culture in Soviet Uzbekistan. . . . He writes of these achievements in steady, unshowy prose, succeeding in his stated goal to enlighten readers who are unaware of a thriving Jewish community in the former Soviet Union. It’s a fascinating blend of personal and cultural history.” —Publisher’s Weekly

ABOUT THE BOOK

Under Communist regimes in the USSR Jews were frequent targets of Soviet persecution. Open participation in religious activities resulted in severe repercussions. Using the KGB and undercover agents, the Communist regimes intimidated and imprisoned Jews who secretly continued to celebrate their holidays and traditions. Many Jews in the Soviet Union eventually lost knowledge of Jewish rituals and traditions.

But a few communities in the USSR resisted these efforts to eradicate Jewish traditions and rituals.

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. How this community resisted repression and maintained their religious traditions and rituals is revealed in this unique memoir by Hillel Zaltzman. It is 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.

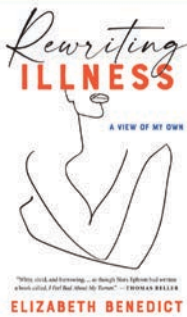
After the World War Two, Jewish communities across the Soviet Union faced renewed efforts by Stalin and the Soviet regime to shut down their religious institutions and eliminate Jewish religious identity. As a child, Hillel studied in secret with Chassidic teachers who could have been sent to Siberia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

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rabbi Hillel Zaltzman In 1971, after fifteen years of waiting, Rabbi 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. He is now the president of Chamah, a successful organization assisting Jews in the US, Israel, and former Soviet Union. Under his leadership, Chamah expanded its activities to include social and medical services, educational programs, and a publishing division. Rabbi Zaltzman and his family live in Brooklyn, New York.

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



Rewriting Illness:

A VIEW OF MY OWN

by Elizabeth Benedict

A Mandel Vilar Press and Dryad Press Co-Publication

Memoirs of serious illness are often good suspense stories, and this one 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. Here is someone who's figured out not only how to think about the unthinkable but how to turn her experience into an honest, gripping, and genuinely humorous story. It's the kind of inspiring book you want to share with all the important people in your life." - **Sigrid Nunez**, author of the national bestseller, *What Are You*

Going Through and The Friend, A Novel (2018 Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction)

"*Rewriting Illness* is a superbly intelligent and surprisingly entertaining memoir about what happens when a lifelong fear of illness collides at last with illness itself. Elizabeth Benedict applies her formidable talents as a novelist to bringing to life the scenes and characters from 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*

ABOUT THE BOOK

By turns somber and funny but above all provocative, Elizabeth Benedict's *Rewriting Illness: A View of My Own* is a most unconventional memoir. With wisdom, self-effacing wit, and the story-telling skills of a seasoned novelist, she brings to life her cancer diagnosis and committed hypochondria. 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 Me" – Benedict investigates existential questions: Is there a cancer personality? Can trauma be passed on generationally? Can cancer be stripped of its warlike metaphors? How do doctors' own fears influence their comments to patients? Is there a gendered response to illness? Why isn't illness one of literature's great subjects? And delving into her own history, she wonders if having had children would have changed her life as a writer and hypochondriac. Post diagnosis, Benedict asks, "Which fear is worse: the fear of knowing or the reality of knowing?". Throughout, Benedict's humor, wisdom, and warmth jacket her fears, which are personal, political, and ultimately global, when the world is pitched into a pandemic. 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, whose novels include 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. Her personal essays have been selected as "Notable" in four editions of **Best American Essays**. She has written reviews and articles for *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Esquire*, *Real Simple*, and *Daedalus*, and been a regular contributor to *Japanese Playboy*, *Huffington Post* and *Salmagundi*, writing on sexual politics, money, and literature, and on figures from Monica Lewinsky to British psychoanalyst Adam Phillips. She conceived of and edited three prominent anthologies, including NY Times bestseller, *What My Mother Gave Me: 31 Women on the Gifts That Mattered Most*. Her books are featured regularly in reviews and interviews on *All Things Considered*, *Fresh Air*, and many other public radio shows, including the BBC's "Women's Hour", and *Australia Public Radio*. A graduate of *Barnard College*, 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*.

ISBN:9781942134916 / Paper with Flaps / 216 pages / \$21.95 / Est.Pub date: May 23, 2023

E-ISBN:9781942134909 / eBook / 216 pages / \$9.99



Maestros & Monsters

Days & Nights with Susan Sontag & George Steiner
by Robert Boyers

(Forthcoming in Fall 2023)

A Mandel Vilar Press and Dryad Press Co-Publication

Robert Boyers is the founder and longtime editor of the American quarterly magazine *Salmagundi*. Launched in 1965 and headquartered in 1969 at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, the magazine is widely regarded as one of the most influential intellectual quarterlies in the United States.

As a graduate student at New York University in 1965 Boyers first met George Steiner, then a distinguished professor. A year later Boyers began a lifelong correspondence with Susan Sontag. These initial contacts led to intense, sometimes difficult friendships that persisted over decades.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Maestros & Monsters explores Boyer's friendships with two major twentieth century secular Jewish intellectuals who achieved celebrity status—Susan Sontag on a global scale, George Steiner principally in Europe and the US. Both disliked and mistrusted one another and inspired in others an odd mix of admiration, envy, and contempt. Both were at once charismatic and forbidding. Each was subjected to violent attacks. Both were enormously influential, and controversial, attracting readers and audiences far beyond the reach of other thinkers and critics of their generation. Each exuded an air of omniscience and self-confidence. Sontag was the prime embodiment of the term "intellectual." Steiner was frequent media commentator, invited to take on everything from Holocaust controversies to fast breaking political crises. He was also the author of several major books and for thirty years a regular book critic for *The New Yorker*. Boyers, a well-known public intellectual, was close to Sontag and Steiner for over a half century. He often wondered at their mutual antipathy. In fact, as recorded in the memoir, he managed to bring them together only on a few occasions—the only times they ever met. Those encounters produced several wrenching and hilarious exchanges, which are among the most bizarre episodes in this narrative. But then there are other bizarre and memorable encounters recorded in the memoir, which features episodes involving other literary luminaries such as Arthur Koestler, Edward Said, Phillip Rieff, and James Wood.

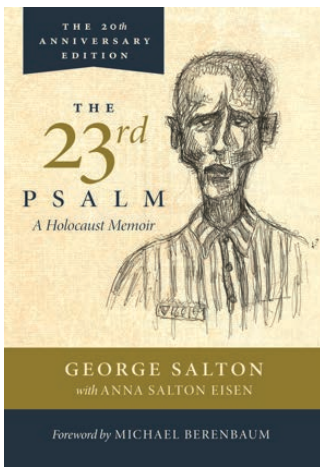
Boyers memoir is an insider's account of the controversies that Sontag and Steiner generated, an effort to explain their extraordinary fame and influence, and their role in shaping the culture of the mid-and-late twentieth century.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Boyers, born in 1942, founded the American quarterly magazine *Salmagundi* 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. Boyers is the author of hundreds of periodical essays and of a dozen books, most recently a widely discussed 2019 book on the "culture wars" entitled *The Tyranny of Virtue: Identity, The Academy & The Hunt for Political Heresies*. His other books include two works on politics and the novel, a volume of short stories and a 2015 book on *The Fate of Ideas*. In 2009 he edited and wrote the introduction for *George Steiner at The New Yorker*, a book that has been published in more than twenty languages.

ISBN: 9791942134862 / Jacketed Hardcover / 224 pages / 5.5 x 8.5 / \$26.95

E-ISBN: 9781942134879 / 240 pages / \$9.99



The 23rd Psalm: A Holocaust Memoir

by George Salton with Anna Salton Eisen

Foreword by Michael Berenbaum

The Twentieth Anniversary Edition

"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 one of the founders of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

"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. The graphic description of the slave's miserable condition is counterpointed to the hope of liberation....an account of the triumph of hope over hatred." -

Murray Baumgarten, Distinguished Emeritus Professor, University of California, Santa Cruz, Editor of *The Jewish Street: The City and Modern Jewish Writing, An Anthology*

"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

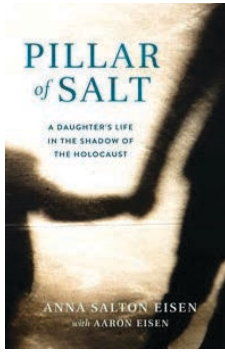
This new and expanded Twentieth Anniversary Edition of the Holocaust memoir of George Salton (then Lucjan Salzman) gives readers a personal and powerful account of his survival through one of the darkest periods in human history. With heartbreaking and honest reflection, the author shares a gripping 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.

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 / Paper with French Flaps / 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 / \$9.99



Pillar of Salt: A Daughter's Life Growing up in the Shadow of the Holocaust

by Anna Salton Eisen and Aaron Eisen

"A profoundly moving tale of generational trauma and healing between father and daughter. Through her travels with him to Poland and her relentless search through personal keepsakes and Nazi archives, she discovers her own history." - **Jacob Wise**, filmmaker

"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*

"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

"Anna bears eloquent witness to the scope of the Holocaust that continues to cast its shadow over generations.... If Anna found the courage to pen these powerful words, we must find the courage to read them and be transformed into witnesses." - **David Patterson**, Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair in Holocaust Studies, University of Texas, Dallas

"A true and beautiful story of a daughter's quest to understand her parents' haunted past, and to discover, in looking back, the indissoluble nature of love and family. A powerful and poignant read." - **Jennifer Rosner**, author of *The Yellow Bird Sings*, *A National Jewish Book Award Finalist*

ABOUT THE BOOK

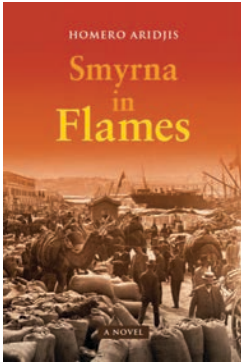
As the daughter of Holocaust survivors, Anna Salton Eisen's memoir, *Pillar of Salt: A Daughter's Life in the Shadow of the Holocaust*, breaks down the barrier of silence that was intended as a protective shield for her parents and their children. From early childhood, Anna, as a second-hand witness 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. Anna confides that by looking back like Lot's wife, and by taking in the whole story, "I could carry the pain of the Holocaust and find there is more to me than a pillar of salt."

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 / Paper with French Flaps / 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



Smyrna in Flames, A Novel

by Homero Aridjis

Translated from Spanish by Lorna Scott Fox

A Co-Publication of Mandel Vilar Press and Dryad Press

Foreword Reviews Magazine, Best Books in 2021-Finalist,
Historical (Adult Fiction)

September 13-22, 2022 -- 100th Anniversary of this Genocide

"In this fictionalized memoir, Aridjis attempts to lift the obscuring veil and write directly, if brutally, about what exactly happened over the fateful week of September 13-19, 1922, when Kemal Atatürk's forces descended on the city of Smyrna, murdered its Greek and Armenian inhabitants, and set fire to what was left... a Heroic Book—**Stephanos Papadopoulos**, *Los Angeles*

Review of Books

"Smyrna in Flames is a shattering and remarkable work, full of merciless cruelty and atrocity, with horror and despair on almost every page, a prose poem of an historical hellscape."—**Simon Schama**, author of *Rembrandt's Eyes*, *Landscape and Memory*, *Rough Crossings*, television documentary *The History of Britain*.

"A century ago, Smyrna was the very site of hell on earth, and Homero Aridjis tells the story of his father's journey through a nightmarish labyrinth of carnage and despair. The reader emerges with feelings of outrage and deep gratitude for this unforgettable account."—**Atom Egoyan**, Armenian-Canadian film director and screenwriter of *The Sweet Hereafter* (1997), *Ararat* (2002), *Remember* (2015) and *Guest of Honor* (2019).

"Passionate, brave, and deeply felt ... a powerful read. The intimate account of a human catastrophe whose devastating repercussions are still being felt in the Aegean area today, a century later."—**Ersi Sotiropoulos**, author of *Zigzag through the Bitter Orange Trees* (2013 winner, *Greek State Prize for Literature*, and the *Book Critics' Award*)

ABOUT THE BOOK

The book focuses on the closing days of the Greek-Turkey War of 1919-1922 when Turkish forces laid siege to Smyrna and perpetrated a genocide of the Greek and Armenian Christians of this Greek port city. These events took place between September 13 and 21 in 1922. This September will be the 100th Anniversary of those events. The book draws its inspiration from Aridjis' father, Nicias, a Greek soldier, who eluded Turkish troops and irregulars while searching the city for his girlfriend. Thousands of Greeks and Armenians were murdered, tortured, and raped while the Turks set the city on fire. Nicias, Aridjis' father, escaped Smyrna boarding the last refugee ship to depart that ancient city.

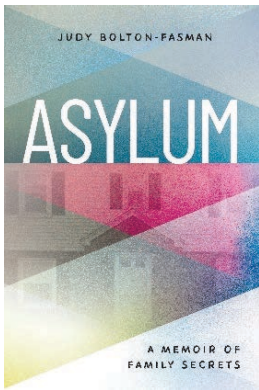
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Homero Aridjis has published 19 collections of poetry, 17 novels, and 15 volumes of short stories, plays, essays, and books for children, and his work has been translated into fifteen languages. He has received important literary prizes, including the Diana-Novedades International Fiction Prize (Mexico), the Roger Caillois, for the ensemble of his work (France), the Grinzane-Cavour (Italy) for 1492 The Life and Times of Juan Cabezón of Castile, a New York Times Notable Book of the Year, The Smederevo Golden Key for Poetry (Serbia), the Premio Letterario Camaiore Internazionale (Italy), the Violani Landi University of Bologna Poetry Prize (Italy), the Premio Letterario Internazionale L'Aquila Laudomia Bonanni (Italy), and two Guggenheim Fellowships. He has been Mexico's Ambassador to Switzerland, The Netherlands and UNESCO, and served two terms as International President of PEN International, during which he strove to make PEN less Eurocentric. Among his books in English are *Persephone*, *The Child Poet*, *1492 The Life and Times of Juan Cabezón of Castile*, *Eyes to See Otherwise*, *A Time of Angels*, *Solar Poems*, *Maria the Monarch* and *News of the Earth*.

Lorna Scott Fox, the translator, is a journalist, editor and translator who lived for many years in Mexico and Spain. Her writings have appeared in the London Review of Books and the Times Literary Supplement. Her translations from Spanish and French include *Teresa*, *My Love* by Julia Kristeva, *Marriage as a Fine Art* by Julia Kristeva and Philippe Sollers, *Petite Fleur* by Iosi Havilio and *Narcoland* by Anabel Hernández.

ISBN: 9781942134756/ Paper with Flaps / 168 pages/ 27 Color & B&W Photographs, 6 x 9 / \$19.95

ISBN: 9781942134763/eBook/ \$14.99



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*

"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 unstinting 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, *Asylum: A Memoir of Family Secrets*, 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 "trastiendas," 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.

ISBN: 9781942134770 Paperback with Flaps / 240 pages / 9 B&W Photographs, 5.5 x 9 / \$24.95

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



The Hot Summer of 1968, A Novel

by Viliam Klimáček

Translated by Dr. Peter Petro

A Mandel Vilar Press and Dryad Press Co-Publication

"... a compelling must-read! This faced-paced, engaging novel delves into the repercussions of dramatic, revolutionary times in world history on a series of personable characters.... this novel offers thought-provoking insight for our contemporary times."—**Madelaine Hron**, author of *Translating Pain: Immigrant Suffering in Literature and Culture*

"In 1968, the communist country of Czechoslovakia had a brief fling with freedom. Termed the "Prague Spring," the experiment in "socialism with a human face" allowed citizens freedom of the press and travel, as well as an

end to arbitrary wiretapping. It all came crashing down when Soviet tanks bulldozed over its borders on August 20-21 and occupied the country. Before the Soviets clamped shut the border with Austria, many individuals and families had a terrible decision to make: flee or face the oppressor? Translated into English for the first time, *The Hot Summer of 1968* follows the stories of ten people confronted with the unthinkable. It provides a pertinent historical lens to the plight of refugees: yesterday, today, and always."—**Peggy Kurkowski**, *HistoricalNovelSociety*

This historical novel is both heartbreaking and hopeful as it shares the stories of families displaced by the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia....It is tactful and humorous about bringing to life the calamitous experiences of the Slovakian people during the fall of communism." **Foreword Reviews Magazine**

"The *Hot Summer of 1968* feels like an odd combination of novel, play, memoir, and history lesson. The opening scenes introduce the dramatic personae and document the Prague Spring... (the) attempt to loosen restrictions on media and public life... under Communism... Klimáček transitions to the surprise invasion of their peaceful country. . . . Surely the rest of the world will not allow this. But the rest of the world stands by as the Soviet and Warsaw Pact militaries enforce their power over their neighbor and ally. In the immediate aftermath, citizens flee their homeland." **Jennifer Helinek**, *Open Letters Review*

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Slovakia's foremost playwright, *Viliam Klimáček*, has written a remarkable story of 10 people whose lives were irrevocably affected by both Prague Spring and the Soviet invasion in August 1968. In the spring of 1968, the Czechoslovakian Communist Party introduced "socialism with a human face," known as "Prague Spring." Suddenly the citizens of Czechoslovakia enjoyed the freedom of the Press, an end to arbitrary wiretaps, and the right to travel without prior authorizations and visas. Their borders opened to the West, consumer goods appeared in the stores, and the winds of freedom blew over the country. The USSR sent 500,000 Warsaw Pact troops and tanks to occupy Czechoslovakia and put an end to this brief experiment. Every citizen had to make a choice: leave or stay? Thousands of Slovaks fearing retribution fled their homeland—some escaped to Vienna—only an hour away by train, others fled farther afield to England, Israel, South America, Canada, and the United States. These are the stories of ten real people (whose names have been changed) enmeshed in this difficult moment in history and reveals the impact of these rapidly moving events on his characters and the lives of their families. They all made the decision to leave their homeland and depart on the perilous journey seeking refuge and freedom in new countries.

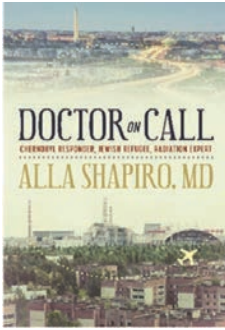
ABOUT THE AUTHOR and TRANSLATOR

Viliam Klimáček graduated from Bratislava University's Faculty of Medicine. Co-founding the alternative theatre GUnaGU in 1985, he has been its actor, director, and playwright. In the mid-1990s he gave up medical practice, devoting himself entirely to the theatre and writing.

Peter Petro, the translator, Professor of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies, University of British Columbia, born in Slovakia, is the translator of the prize-winning novel by Milan Simecka, *The Year of the Frog*.

ISBN: 9781942134718 / Paper with Flaps / 312 pp./ \$19.95

ISBN: 9781942134725 / E-book / 312 pp./ \$9.99



Doctor on Call

Chernobyl Responder, Jewish Refugee, Radiation Expert

By Alla Shapiro, M.D., Ph.D.

"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**

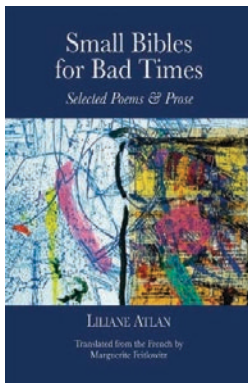
"The relevance of Dr. Shapiro's story to today's COVID-19 pandemic and to potential future radiation accidents, malicious use of radioactive materials and nuclear war, ...it is a must read." - **Nicholas Dainiak MD, FACP, Clinical Professor Department of Therapeutic Radiology, Yale University School 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.**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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/

"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

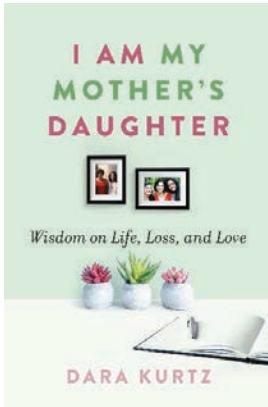
For Liliane Atlan (1932-2012), visionary French writer of plays, poetry, and prose, the creative quest was to "find language to say the unsayable. . . to [find a way] to integrate within our conscience, without dying in the attempt, the shattering experience of Auschwitz." Having spent the war years 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 Molledo. 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*

"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 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.

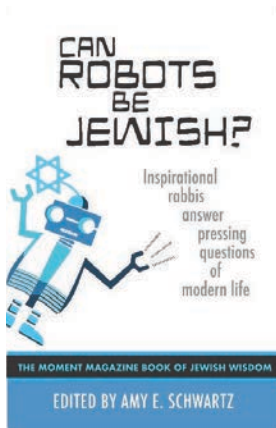
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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* (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 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.

You can follow Dara on social media and her podcast: Facebook: @crazyperfectlife, Instagram: @crazyperflife, Twitter: @crazyperflife Podcast: Thrive: The Podcast with Garth and Dara.

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.

"Can Robots Be Jewish? is 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*

"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*

"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.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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**, 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, 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

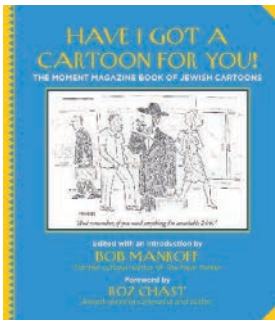
Rachel Biale's memoir of growing up on a kibbutz—juxtaposed with an account of her parents' flight from the Holocaust—tells the quintessential story of Israel in the most intimate terms. She begins her memoir with a description of how her parents got to Israel and wound up on a kibbutz. Born four years 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

"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

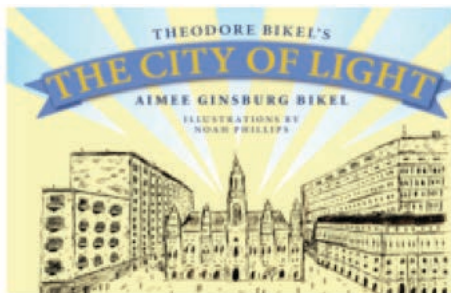
Former Cartoon and Humor Editor for both *Esquire* and *The New Yorker* magazines, Bob Mankoff grew up Jewish in Queens, NY, went to the Borscht Belt as a kid where he saw performances by Jerry Lewis, Buddy Hackett, and Rodney Dangerfield, among others. In this collection of Jewish cartoons, this wildly successful cartoonist, speaker and author of *How About Never, Is Never Good for You?*, collects his favorite Jewish cartoons, and writes an introduction which he shows how his Jewish heritage helped him to become a successful cartoonist, examines 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. 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 AUTHOR

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

"Over his long and remarkable career, Theodore Bikel achieved the status of a living treasure. Thanks to Aimee Ginsburg Bikel, Theo is still here." - **Jonathan Kirsch**, *The*

Jewish Journal

"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." - **Peter Yarrow**, Peter Paul and Mary

"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." - *The Jerusalem Post*

ABOUT THE BOOK

Theodore Bikel and Aimee Ginsburg Bikel capture a poignant memories and story of Theo's childhood. *The City of Light* is set in Vienna in 1937-1938 during Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria and Kristallnacht, 'The Night of Broken Glass.' A young Jewish boy strolls through Vienna and witnesses acts of anti-Semitism 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.' *The City of Light* can be appreciated by is written for all readers, ages 10 and up in a new and expanded version with and includes a foreword, Postscript. Recipe, glossary, and sheet-music of Theo's favorite Hanukkah song.

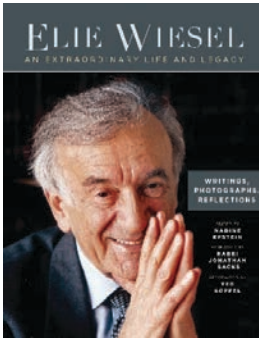
ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Theodore Bikel, Hollywood and Broadway actor, is 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*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Gunsmoke*, *Dynasty*, and *All in the Family*. He received an Academy Award Nomination and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Aimee Ginsburg Bikel is a writer, journalist, public speaker, and community organizer. She served as the senior correspondent in India for Israel's leading 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, Reflections, Photographs

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**

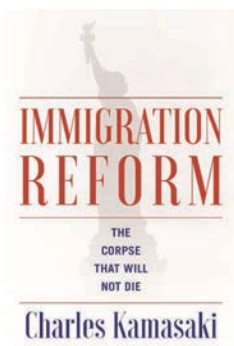
ABOUT THE BOOK

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 AUTHOR

Nadine Epstein, an award-winning journalist and author, is editor-in-chief and CEO of *Moment Magazine*.

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



Immigration Reform

The Corpse That Will Not Die

by Charles Kamasaki

Finalist for “Best Book in American History” Foreword Reviews
Best Political/Current Affairs Book – English.” 2020 International Latino Book Awards

“A massive and invaluable contribution Exceptionally well-written, organized and presented ... with the inclusion of a listing of policy primers, a cast of characters, an informative author’s note, ninety-six pages of chapter notes, and a fifteen page index, making it unreservedly recommended for personal, professional, community college, and university library Contemporary Social Issues and Political Science

collections in general, and Immigration Reform supplemental curriculum studies reading lists in particular.”—**Midwest Book Review**

Kamasaki offers an insider’s look at a critical moment of our history, when storied lawmakers, influential business interests, and potent nonprofits overcame their often-competing objectives to enact the last “comprehensive immigration reform,” the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA)..--**Foreword Reviews Magazine**

“Masterful. Absolutely essential reading for anyone trying to understand the advocacy and legislative work that shaped U.S. immigration policy in the 1980s and early ‘90s.”—**Jonathan Blitzer**, *The New Yorker*

“A tour de force. Don’t leave home without it!” --**Robert Juceam**, *The American Immigration Lawyers Association*

“If you haven’t read this, you should. Kamasaki writes with a rare mix of knowledge, humility, and generosity towards those with whom he disagrees. Filled with fascinating detail” --**Jason Deparle**, *NEW York Times*

Stirring, brilliant, and comprehensive. If there was a “Game of Thrones” about how the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 passed, this book would be the script! --**Janet Murguia**, President, and CEO UnidosUS

Deeply researched and beautifully written. Everyone who is engaged in the future of immigration reform should read this book. --**Anthony D. Romero**, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union

“Tells a compelling and true story of American politics through the eyes of a participant, the mind of a scholar, and the voice of a novelist.” —**Rick Swartz**, Founder, National Immigration Forum

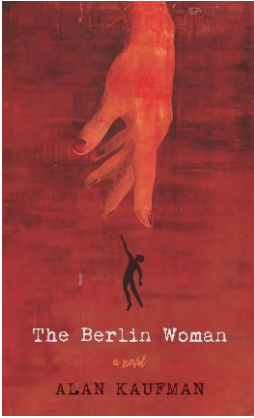
ABOUT THIS BOOK

As both a participant in this event and an historian, Mr. Kamasaki offers a first-hand look at a critical moment of our history, when storied lawmakers, influential business interests, and potent nonprofits overcame their often-competing objectives to enact the first and last “comprehensive immigration reform,” the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). The law simultaneously cracked down on unauthorized immigration, offered an “amnesty” program for undocumented immigrants and addressed agricultural growers’ demands for immigrant workers. How can lessons learned from the passage of the last major set of comprehensive immigration reforms be applied to breaking the current impasse on immigration policy? The answer may be found in these pages.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Charles Kamasaki was the point person on immigration policy for the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), a Latino civil rights organization in the 1980s. He joined “The Group,” a tiny coalition of lobbyists from Latino, civil liberties, legal, and religious organizations who first delayed, then shaped, and later helped implement this legislation. Mr. Kamasaki currently serves as Senior Cabinet Advisor, UnidosUs (Formerly NCLR), and is a Fellow at the Migration Policy Institute

ISBN: 9781942134558 / Paper with Flaps / 544 pages / 21 B&W Photos / \$29.95
E-Book ISBN: 9781942134817 / 544 pages / 21 B&W Photos / \$19.95



The Berlin Woman, A Novel

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, rivaling 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.

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 A Novel

By Tara Lynn Masih

Inspired by actual Holocaust events, this poignant, debut novel is a powerful coming-of-age story that will resonate with fans of *The Book Thief* and *Between Shades of Gray*.

Hanna Slivka is on the cusp of fourteen when Hitler's army crosses the border into Soviet-occupied Ukraine. Soon, the Gestapo closes in, determined to make the shtetele she lives in "free of Jews." Until the German occupation, Hanna spent her time exploring Kwasova with her younger siblings, admiring the drawings of the handsome Leon Stadnick, and helping her neighbor dye decorative pysanky eggs. But now she, Leon, and their families are forced to flee and hide in the forest outside their shtetele—and then in the dark caves beneath the rolling meadows, rumored to harbor evil spirits. Underground, they battle sickness and starvation, while the hunt continues above. When Hanna's father disappears, suddenly it's up to Hanna to find him—and to find a way to keep the rest of her family, and

friends, alive.

Taught in Holocaust Education Programs around the country and recommended by School Library Journal in "Resources to help Students Process the Russian Invasion of Ukraine." (2022)

"[Masih's] history is spot on and her firm, clear hand transports you into another world, leaving you with a better understanding of the madness. A keeper. One for your history bookshelf." - **The Florida-Times Union**

"A fluid writer, 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." - **Hadassah Magazine**

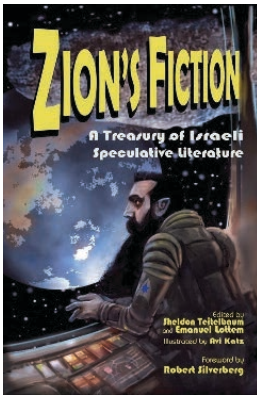
"A worthy addition to the canon of Holocaust literature for young readers. As fine, delicate, and artful as a painted pysanka egg." - **Helen Maryles Shankman**, Finalist for *They Were Like Family to Me*, 2017 Story Prize

"It's said the Holocaust defies imagination. Tara Lynn Masih defies that notion. *My Real Name Is Hanna* is 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: A Musical Prodigy's Story of Survival, 1941-1946*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tara Lynn Masih, author of the acclaimed 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 St. Augustine, Florida.

PISBN: 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

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.**

"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**

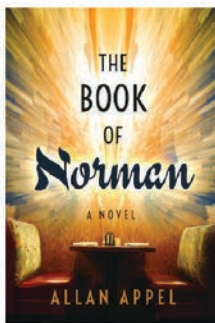
"*Zion's Fiction* will supply a distinctive bright line to the spectrum of futuristic fiction, which stands in sore need of broadening, in the cause of promoting cross-cultural understanding as well as showcasing exciting new talent."— **Brian Stableford**, author, 70 novels and renown SF historian

"*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 and 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

In this novel, set in LA during the 1967 anti-Vietnam War protests, 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.

"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, Waterfront: Walk Around Manhattan

"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, the *New York Times* and author of *Knocking on Heaven's Door: American Religion in the Age of Counterculture*

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Book of Norman is a first in contemporary Jewish literature, probing with humor and seriousness Mormon-Jewish relationships and traditions regarding the treatment of the dead. It is 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 *treyf* (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-added 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, the Jewish angels assert themselves. A religious tug-of-war ensues, as Norman tries to pull his brother back to Judaism while Jon tries to prove to Norman that Mormonism is the way. The conflict over their father's soul culminates in a monumental and hilarious game of basketball, pitting Norman and the angels against a Mormon team headed by Western Oaks (Wes, the Elder) and his compatriots. With the angels' help, Norman becomes a reluctant, somewhat ridiculous, 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 work has appeared in the *National Jewish Monthly*, the *Progressive*, *National Lampoon*, and *Tablet*, and his plays have been produced in New York, Chicago, New Haven, and Provincetown. *The Excommunication of Mrs. Eaton*, about Puritan theocracy in early New Haven, won the Connecticut Heritage Productions full-length play award in 2011. He has published 14 books, including eight novels. 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*.

Paper with Flaps	ISBN: 9781942134312	344 Pages	\$19.95
E-Book	ISBN: 9781942134329	344 Pages	\$12.99

Green Was My Forest

Edna Iturralde



Green Was My Forest

by Edna Iturralde

Translated from Spanish by Jessica Powell

Skipping Stone Magazine Honor Award as one of the best Multicultural books for children in 2019 & 2020

A story for young readers (ages 8–14) about the culture, customs and ancestral wisdom of the indigenous groups living in the Ecuadorian Amazon, highlighting their collective love, respect and custodianship of the natural world.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Twelve Stories exploring the way of life, culture, customs, and ancestral wisdom of indigenous groups living in Ecuador's Equatorial Amazon. Award-winning children's author Edna Iturralde takes young readers into the dense forests of Ecuadorian Amazonia

to encounter six surviving native tribes: the Achuar, the Shuar, the Waorani, the Siona-Secoya, the Quichua, and the Cofán. To children of the developed world, the lives of their Amazonian counterparts will seem vastly different—in terms of dress, diet, housing, work, spiritual beliefs, and rituals—from their own lives; and yet they will find commonalities: love of family, of place, of play, of animals, and of nature. Each story is told from a child's perspective, enabling readers to identify with, and feel empathy for, the fictional characters. Using accessible language, the book balances storytelling with educational features such as maps and descriptions of each tribe. Brilliant ink drawings by the Ecuadorian artists Mauricio Maggiorini, Eulalia Cornejo, and Santiago Gonzalez illustrate each story.

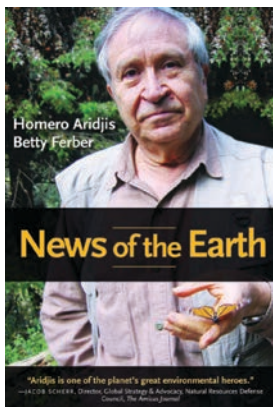
The stories in this collection offer a rare glimpse into the lives of Ecuador's Amazonian people, whose cultures and ways of life are being continually eroded and threatened by outsiders and the forces of modernization. Each story is about a different child who belongs to one of these tribes. As we follow that child's story, we discover what life is like for the people of the jungle. Although each tribe has its own customs, beliefs, and language, they all share a reverence for the earth and a reliance on ancestral wisdom that enables them to live in harmony with nature.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR & TRANSLATOR

Edna Iturralde (Ecuador, 1948– present) has published over sixty books and is widely considered one of the most important authors of children's and young adult literature in Latin America. The recipient of multiple awards, including the Skipping Stones Award and the International Latino Book Award, Iturralde's work has received significant international recognition, and five of her books have been included in Common Core kits for schools in nineteen US states. In 2014 her collection of short stories, *Verde fue mi selva*, now translated and published here in English for the first time as *Green Was My Forest*, was selected as one of the ten best children's books written in Latin America during the twentieth century. Her books are used in the school curricula of Houston and Los Angeles. The Texas Library Association selected two of her books for its 2016–17 list of ten recommended books. Two of her books are part of the Required Summer Reading Books recommended by Scholastic Books.

Jessica Powell has translated dozens of works by a wide variety of Latin American writers. Her translation of Antonio Benítez Rojo's novel *Woman in Battle Dress* (City Lights, 2015) was a finalist for the PEN Center USA Literary Award for Translation. Her translation of *Wicked Weeds* by Pedro Cabiya (Mandel Vilar Press, 2016) was named a finalist for the 2017 Best Translated Book Award, and it made the longlist for the 2017 National Translation Award. Her translation of Pablo Neruda's book-length poem, *venture of the infinite man*, was published by City Lights Books in 2017.

ISBN: 9781942134602 Paperback with flaps, 154 pp 36 illustrations \$14.99
ISBN: 9781942134503 E-Book \$9.99



News of the Earth

Homero Aridjis and Betty Ferber

Translated from Spanish by Betty Ferber

Provides valuable lessons learned by someone on the front lines defending the Earth for decades.

"Prose sparkles with passion and lapidary finesse. Articles are sprinkled with personal observations, such as how Monarch butterflies, now increasingly rare, once filled the streets in winter. The book would obviously appeal to environmentalists, but also has broader literary merits and serves as a captivating historical account of the conservationist movement. *News of the Earth* is a thoughtful, engaging work about a man of great conscience, concerned with nothing less than the fate of the planet." - **Joseph S. Pete**, *Foreword Reviews Magazine*

"This collection of his articles of over more than thirty years of fighting to preserve our natural wonders will be an inspiration to future generations. Aridjis is an international icon for his environmental activism." - **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.**, author of *Crimes Against Nature*

Aridjis is an international icon for his environmental activism.

"Homero is one of the planet's great environmental heroes."--**Jacob Scherr**, Director, Global Strategy & Advocacy, Natural Resources Defense Council, Washington, D.C.

"No one in Mexico has made a more important contribution to protecting that country's environment, an effort that has had ripple effects throughout the world." - **Lester Brown**, the US environmentalist and founder of both the Worldwatch and Earth Policy Institutes.

"The Group of 100 is a movement of conscience that strives to change our relationship with nature. Thanks to this group, presided over by the saintly poet Homero Aridjis, in our world we can still enjoy the magic of monarch butterflies, sea turtles and gray whales." - **Alejandro Jodorowsky**, Chilean-French filmmaker, playwright, actor, author, comics writer and spiritual guru.

ABOUT THE BOOK

News of the Earth presents a wide-ranging and comprehensive selection of Homero Aridjis activist and pioneering writings in defense of nature and the environment. In 1985 Aridjis founded and led the Group of 100, Mexico's most influential environmental group composed of 100 prominent personalities in the arts, culture and science. This book is also a biography of Aridjis relationship with the natural world, a history of the rise of environmental awareness in Mexico, documentation of the main environmental concerns of the past three decades, and a chronicle of the Group's most important battles and victories. It is a significant contribution to environmental writing in any language, Aridjis involvement with critical environmental events and the protection of endangered ecosystems and wildlife have had global implications. Under his leadership, the group's efforts led to a ban on the capture and commercialization of sea turtles, legislation reducing the amount of lead in gasoline, daily monitoring of air quality in Mexico City, and official designation of sanctuaries for nesting areas for the Monarch Butterfly. Aridjis waged a lifelong battle against threats to endangered ecosystems and wildlife in his country, many with global implications, including campaigns to save the grey whale, the bottle-nosed dolphin, the bee population, the giant saguaro cactus, the endangered coral reefs, and the rain forests of Mexico. This book highlights these crucial battles with detailed documentation of critical environmental victories. *News of the Earth* contributes to our understanding why we must preserve our global environment, while providing valuable lessons learned by someone who has been on the front lines defending the earth for decades.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

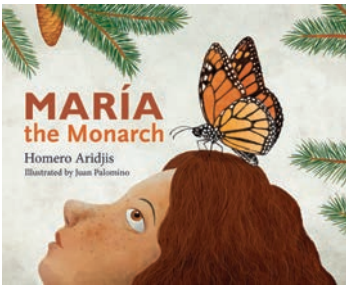
Homero Aridjis, one of Latin America's foremost literary figures, author of 48 books of poetry and prose, served as Mexico's Ambassador to Switzerland, The Netherlands, UNESCO and international president of PEN International. He received awards from the United Nations (Global 500 Award), the Orion Society, Mikhail Gorbachev and Global Green USA and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR & TRANSLATOR

Betty Ferber (Aridjis) born in New York and a graduate of Bryn Mawr College served as the International Coordinator of the Grupo de los Cien (Group of 100) since its founding in 1985. Her lifelong commitment to the environment was also honored by Mikhail Gorbachev and Global Green USA with the Green Cross Millennium Award for International Environmental Leadership. She is the translator of several books by Homero Aridjis into English.

Paper with Flaps
E-Book

ISBN: 9781942134091 400 Pages \$24.95
ISBN: 9781942134 107 400 Pages \$17.99



María The Monarch

Homero Aridjis

Translated from Spanish by Eva Aridjis

Illustration by Juan Palomino

Afterword by Betty Ferber

New Series: YOUNG ECO FICTION

A Story for young readers (ages 8-14) about Monarch butterflies and efforts to save them from extinction

"This book is unique in presenting the cultural significance of the monarch butterfly in such depth."
- *School Library Journal*

"I highly recommend this extraordinary trip to the kingdom of the monarch".- **Dr. Lincoln Brower**,
Sweet Briar College, the world's leading expert on the Monarch butterfly

ABOUT THE BOOK

Each year, in the Mexican town of Contepec, migrating Monarch butterflies spend the winter in the temperate forests of Mexico. This beautifully illustrated children's book is an adventure story about two courageous cousins Eréndira and Corina. With the help of their community as well as Maria the Monarch butterfly, who speaks to them in their dreams, they save the lives of millions of Monarch butterflies threatened by illegal logging and traffickers of wild animals. Together they help preserve the natural and cultural wealth of their homeland. In an afterword for parents, "The Monarch: A Tireless Traveler" Betty Ferber describes the life and evolution of the Monarch butterfly, its migration from North to South America, and the establishment of the sanctuaries in Mexico and the laws that protect them.

Sample from the book: "Eréndira and Corina picked up butterflies from the brush to revive them. When the sun's rays touched their numbed wings they had detached themselves from the clusters where they had spent the night to fly into the air, but they fell to the ground. The girls spotted Maria the Monarch on an oyamel root. As she was unable to fly, Eréndira blew on her wings to warm them up, until she flew off towards the myriad butterflies that had formed a colony in the ravine, an image of the resurrection of winter. When they saw her take to the air, the girls didn't know if they should follow her across the hill or go down to the village. Suddenly they looked up and were astonished to see Quetzalpapalotl herself flying through space with wings as radiant as an angel's. Maria the Monarch took flight and followed her, and the girls followed Maria, until they reached a glass house with transparent walls through which they saw millions of butterflies fluttering about and caterpillars that would turn into butterflies munching on milkweed leaves. There were also paintings from pre-Hispanic times showing the quetzal as one of the thirteen birds that were symbols of the thirteen seasons of the sky and the thirteen hours of the day. The quetzal was perched on The Tree of the East in the House of the Sun. In another painting the Quetzalpapalotl, with a dark green abdomen and her wings spread, sat on the central World Tree. The girls were awestricken. Eréndira was silent and lost in thought. When Corina asked her if she felt okay, she replied "I think my dreams are starting to become real."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Homero Aridjis, one of Latin America's greatest living writers and environmental activists, is the author forty-eight books of poetry and prose including *Eyes to See Otherwise*, *Solar Poems*, and *1492: The Life and Times of Juan Cabezon of Castile*. Through his activism in behalf of the environment, Homero Aridjis played a major role in the establishment of recognized sanctuaries for the Monarch butterfly in Mexico.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Juan Carlos Palomino won first place in the IV Catalog Iberoamerican Illustration in 2013 for his illustrations for Samir and Yonatan, published by Ediciones Castillo.

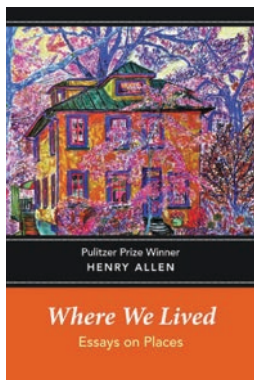
ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Eva Aridjis is a filmmaker whose prize-winning films include *Taxidermy: The Art of Imitating Life* and *Billy Twist*, which played at the Sundance Film Festival. In 2003, she filmed *Niños de la Calle* (Children of the Street), bringing attention to Mexico City's poverty epidemic.

ABOUT THE AFTERWORD

Betty Ferber is the International Coordinator of the environmentalist collective Grupo de los Cien (Group of 100) and translator of Homero Aridjis's books.

ISBN: 9781942134343 Lithocase 64 Pages \$19.95
ISBN: 9781942134336 Paperback w/flaps 64 Pages \$12.99



Where We Lived

Essays on Places

Henry Allen

Co-Published with Dryad Press

Pulitzer Prize winner Henry Allen recalls five centuries of his family's history through the places they lived

"Henry Allen is a man knows who he is and how and where he got there. His telling of his story rings and reads real. It is so good that if you have the time or inclination to read only one book this day—week, month, year, decade — do yourself a favor and make it this one." - **Jim Lehrer**, American journalist and novelist, former News Anchor for the PBS NewsHour, author of several fiction and nonfiction books including

A Bus of My Own and *Tension City: Inside the Presidential Debates*

"Henry Allen is the truest chronicler of our American dream. By taking us into the homes of his history, he reveals our own lives in shafts of sunlit prose streaming through the windows of time and place."--**James Grady**, author of *Six Days of the Condor* and recipient of France's Grand Prix du Roman Noir

"These essays are seemingly casually written, so understated, assured and wry, that everything Henry Allen mentioned came back as vividly as the dream our childhood always is. I grew up around the same time, in the same area, but it took these essays to make me realize how amazing that world was, its immediacy paradoxically rooted in history, its small pleasures enormous. I loved the book." - **Ann Beattie**, author of *Mrs. Nixon: A Novelist Imagines a Life* and *The State We're In: Maine Stories*

"Henry Allen evokes the past with an engineer's precision, a poet's vividness and a journalist's probity, deftly avoiding the rat traps of sentimentality and nostalgia. The result is an anthem of small truths, a wholly original piece of prose amounting to a big one about family and history. I am compelled to call *Where We Lived* the most American book I have ever read." - **Stephen Hunter**, best-selling author of *Targeted* (Bob Lee Swagger Novel), *Basil's War: A Novel* and Pulitzer Prize winner for criticism

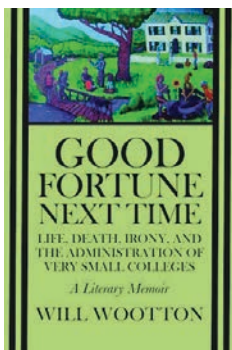
ABOUT THE BOOK

Starting out as a letter to his descendants, to his children and grandchildren, this informative and entertaining memoir grew into a social history of a Henry Allen's family chronicling many places they called home. His story begins with a farmhouse in Wales in 1557 and depicts places lived in the midst of Indian wars, a witchcraft trial, privateering, wagon trains, a split over slave trading, the bilking of a town in Rhode Island, the friendship of presidents, the dwindling of the old Anglo-Saxon hegemony, and the heartless mysteries of money, alcohol and gentility. A Pulitzer Prize winner, Allen brings alive nearly five centuries of family by describing places they lived: plantations in South Carolina and Guadeloupe, a boardinghouse in Queens, a grand old house in Orange, New Jersey, farmhouses, mansions, apartments, ships, tents and dormitories, ancient towns in Rhode Island and Connecticut. It's a universe that exists only as a collection of memories, but it is as real in its poignancy and endurance as any collection of astrophysical data.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Henry Allen, an intense, mercurial, Marine veteran of Vietnam was the feature writer and art critic at *The Washington Post* between 1970-2009. He was awarded first prize for commentary by the American Society of Newspaper Editors (1992) and the Pulitzer Prize for criticism (2000). Among his books: *Going Too Far Enough: American Culture at Century's End*, *What It Felt Like: Living in the American Century*, *Fool's Mercy: a novel*, and *The Museum of Lost Air*, poetry. Allen has written for the New York Review of Books, New Yorker, Paris Review, Vogue, Wilson Quarterly and currently reviews books for The Wall Street Journal. He has been a guest on many radio and television programs, e.g., Charlie Rose Show, Discovery Channel, NPR's Talk of the Nation, and Stephen Colbert.

Paperback with Flaps ISBN: 9781942134442 170 Pages \$16.95



Good Fortune Next Time

Life, Death, Irony, and the Administration of Very Small Colleges

Will Wootton

Co-Published with Dryad Press

A personal, evocative and literary excursion into the perilous workings of small colleges

“There may never have been a funnier or more honest account of life in higher education.”—**Jonathan Larsen**, former editor of *High*

Times and the Village Voice

“Will Wootton reminds us of the joys and the value of small liberal arts colleges [and] why we should fight—as he did mightily—for their survival.”—**Dr. Paul LeBlanc**, President and CEO of Southern New Hampshire University

ABOUT THE BOOK

Will Wootton, at various junctures in his life, has been a horse wrangler in Colorado, a sous-chef in southern Vermont, and the editor of a Chinese-English newspaper in Boston. While *Good Fortune Next Time* touches on these endeavors, its real focus is on the joys and tribulations of administering small liberal arts colleges in New England. This literary memoir tracks Wootton's twenty-nine-year odyssey through the halls of academia, ending with his six years as president of Sterling College in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, where he paces back and forth on the “porch of worry,” coaxing the small but beloved college back to life. Will Wootton served as President of Sterling College from 2006 to 2012. Previously he was Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Montserrat College of Art, and for nineteen years he was Director of Development and Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Marlboro College.

When Wootton arrived at Sterling, the college was facing dire financial prospects and possible closure. In relatively short order, he was successful in obtaining significant grants, while putting into place policies and initiatives that set the college on a strong economic footing. At the same time, he was instrumental in invigorating Sterling's commitment to combining traditional and experiential academics, so that it is now receiving national recognition.

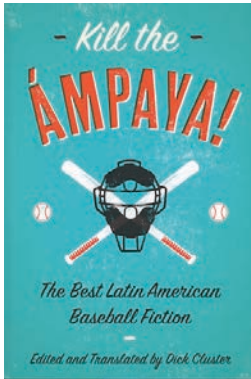
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Will Wootton was President of Sterling College – the smallest liberal arts college in the nation – from 2006 to 2012. The college, located in Craftsbury Common, Vermont (the Northeast Kingdom, as well as Prior to coming to Sterling, Wootton served as Vice-President for Institutional Advancement at Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, Massachusetts, and for 19 years before then, he was at Marlboro College (southern Vermont), first serving as Director of Development and then Vice-President for Institutional Advancement. After retiring from Sterling College, Wootton took an interim position as Vice President of Advancement at New Mexico Highlands University and Executive Director of Highlands Foundation. He and his wife Lulu live in Craftsbury Common, Vermont, where he has once more taken up sculpture that relies on organic matter.

ISBN: 9781942134350 Paper with Flaps

288 Pages

\$17.95



Kill the Ámpaya!

The Best Latin American Baseball Fiction
Edited and Translated by Dick Cluster

The first English-language anthology of baseball stories by major Latin American and Caribbean writers

"A masterful job..A welcome reminder that inspired writing about the sport isn't limited to the United States..Each story reflects a passion for baseball and a recognition that the sport and its lessons are omnipresent, reflecting and informing and mimicking real life.. 18 stories, the perfect number to fill the top and bottom of nine innings." —Paul Hagen, MLB.com

"Each Spring brings a flood of books about ballplayers, managers and memorable teams. It may be that as this baseball season begins, no book related to the game is more necessary than this one. The great bonus is that

Kill the Ampaya! is also great fun" **Bill Littlefield**, WBUR

"If anyone still doubts that Baseball, the American pastime, is just as deeply embedded in the lives of Latin Americans—in their love affairs, childhood dreams, aging regrets or fateful apparitions á la Casey Stengel—this sweet volume proves it." —**John Krich**, author of *El Beisbol*

"If baseball is really a metaphor for life, then Kill the Ámpaya—Cluster's wonderful collection of Latin American baseball stories—is an astonishing record of its beauty and coarseness, redemption and tragedy. You don't have to be a baseball fan to appreciate these stories and delight in this reading."—**Achy Obejas**, *Ruins and The Tower of the Antilles and Other Stories*

"These are stories we have lived ... Some are funny, some cruel or violent, but in the end they are part of our culture that makes us act the way we do. They make me think of the millions of stories that got lost behind us."—**Omar Vizquel**, an all-time best fielding shortstop from Venezuela who played for the Seattle Mariners, Cleveland Indians, and the San Francisco Giants.

"Baseball is in the soul of millions in Puerto Rico and the other countries that play the game with Latino flair. These stories are portraits of its place in our lives."—**Bengie Molina**, from Puerto Rico, former catcher for the Los Angeles Angels, Toronto Blue Jays and the San Francisco Giants.

ABOUT THE BOOK

A rich variety of baseball fiction exists south of the Florida Straits and the Rio Grande, but almost none available in English. This collection translates for the first-time stories ranging from the highly literary to the vernacular. These inventive and entertaining stories reveal the place of baseball in Latin America. Mixing fan and fandom, baseball and politics, rural and urban life, sexism and poverty. Kill the Ámpaya! reveals how baseball shapes the social fabric of everyday South American, Central American and Caribbean life.

The collection highlights internationally known writers such as Leonardo Padura from Cuba (*The Man Who Loved Dogs*), Sergio Ramirez from Nicaragua (*Divine Punishment, A Thousand Deaths Plus One*). Other well-known writers such as Arturo Arango and Eduardo del Llano from Cuba, Alexis Gómez Rosa and Jose Bobadilla from the Dominican Republic, Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro from Puerto Rico, Vicente Leñero from Mexico and emerging literary figures such as Salvador Fleján and Rodrigo Blanco Calderon from Venezuela, Sandra Tarez and Daniel Reyes Germán from the Dominican Republic., Carmen Hernandez Peña in Cuba find representation in this multi-national ensemble of baseball stories.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dick Cluster, the editor and translator of this collection, is the co-author of *History of Havana* (Palgrave, 2010). He is also the author of the novels *Return to Sender*, *Repulse Monkey* and *Obligations of the Bone* and several nonfiction books including *They Should Have That Cup of Coffee* and *Shrinking Dollars, Vanishing Jobs*. His translations of Cuban literature include such works as *Mylene Fernández Pintado, A Corner of the World* (*City Lights*, 2014) and *Pedro de Jesús, Frigid Tales* (*City Lights*, 2002). Cluster taught courses on Cuban history, culture and politics at the University of Massachusetts at Boston where he was Associate Director of the University Honors Program. He lives in the San Francisco Bay area.

Paperback with Flaps	ISBN: 978-1-942134-26-8	232 pages	\$19.95
E-Book	ISBN: 978-1-942134-27-5	232 pages	\$14.99



13 Stradomska Street

A Memoir of Exile and Return

By Andrew Potok

"I was deeply stirred and instructed by 13 Stradomska Street. Rare enough to find a book that reads wholly, convincingly honest, a memoir that doesn't try to tunnel away from unwelcome truth via exit routes of bad faith. 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**, was a Columbia University professor of journalism and sociology is the author of sixteen books, including *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage* and *Occupy Nation: The Roots, the Spirit, and the Promise of Occupy Wall Street*.

"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 [his] childhood . . . 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 and memorable 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 award-winning novels such as *The Stolen Jew* and *1940* and of nonfiction, *Imagining Robert*, and *Transforming Madness*.

"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.

When, 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, with its still-virulent anti-Semitism. The visit awakens 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 was a successful visual artist until he went blind in his forties; after which he turned to writing and 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 lives in Vermont.

ISBN: 9781942134305 Paperback with Flaps 216 pages \$16.95
E-ISBN: 9781942134299 E-BOOK 216 pages \$12.99



ISRA ISLE

A Novel

By Nava Semel

Translated from Hebrew by Jessica Cohen

"Semel's novel 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. Each of the main characters struggles with issues of religion, spirituality, and identity in streaming thoughts and discussions. Through those voices, Semel explores issues of global importance—such as terrorism, prejudice, and politics—in this singular, thought-provoking novel." - **Publishers Weekly**

"A spellbinding alternate-history.... Semel's true achievement with this book is her seemingly effortless ability to demolish the walls we instinctively put up in our minds between the "past," the "present," and the "future." *Isra Isle* suggests that, in two different universes (one in which Israel doesn't exist, and one in which it does), the same problems persist: what does "home" mean? What about "exile"? Can we ever really escape tragedy and catastrophe, even if the conditions are vastly different?" - **Speculative Fiction in Translation**

"*Isra Isle* ... is another genre-bending triumph, and a particularly sophisticated contribution to the vibrant literary tradition of Jewish alternative histories like Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, [and] Philip Roth's *The Plot Against America*." - **Ranen Omer-Sherman**, Jewish Book Council website

"It's rare to read a book as brave and brilliant as Israeli author Nava Semel's *Isra Isle*, a book that defies classification. Is it a detective novel, a 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, of course, is that this extraordinary and extraordinarily strange book is all three." - **NecessaryFiction.com February 2017** by **Peter Grandbois**, author of seven award-winning books and a senior editor at *Boulevard* magazine

"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... 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**, author, *Mr. Mani, Five Seasons*, and *The Liberated Bride*

"Semel once again proves herself one of the most original voices in Israeli literature. Equal parts detective novel, historical fantasia, and alternate history, *Isra Isle* offers a compelling exploration of modern Jewish identity for a postmodern world." - **Adam Rovner**, author, *In the Shadow of Zion: Promised Lands before Israel*, University of Denver

ABOUT THE BOOK

Semel's genre-bending novel offers an engrossing alternative history for Native Americans, American Jews, a prescient peek at presidential politics. In a tripartite investigation of what might have happened if Mordecai Noah's purchase of Grand Isle from the Seneca actually materialized as a Jewish homeland with Native Americans.

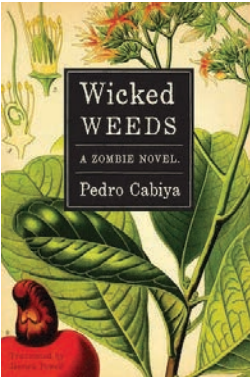
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nava Semel, is an Israeli playwright, screenwriter, and the author of sixteen books including *Becoming Gershona*, winner of the 1990 National Jewish Book Award

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Jessica Cohen is the translator of many Israel's finest writers including David Grossman, Etgar Keret, Assaf Gavron, Rutu Modan, Amir Gutfreund, Yael Hedaya, Ronit Matalon and Tom Segev

ISBN: 9781942134190 Paper with Flaps 256 pages \$16.95
E-ISBN: 9781942134206 E-BOOK 256 pages \$ 9.99



Wicked Weeds a Zombie Novel

By Pedro Cabiya

Translated by Jessica Powell

Bestselling literary zombie novel of a dead man's search for his lost humanity!

"Threats of a zombie apocalypse seem to be around every corner, but what's rare is an intelligent, thoughtful, funny, sentimental, socially conscious, and, yes, gross at times zombie tale infused with Caribbean culture, piques, prejudices, and passions. Pedro Cabiya delivers all of this and more in *Wicked Weeds*, one gentleman zombie's quest to recapture his lost qualia, that indefinable, internal, sensory perception

of self. . . . Whether you consider yourself a lover of zombie fantasies or not, devour *Wicked Weeds* for its unique perspective, cultural insights, and charged humor." - **Foreword Reviews**

"A fastidious and successful Caribbean zombie navigates the uncertain pathways of the human heart in this cerebral take on the undead. . . . A twisty, disorderly, but culturally resonant tale of zombie woe." - **Kirkus Reviews**

"You know what's been missing in your life? A work of Caribbean noir and science fiction! In *Wicked Weeds*, a smart and successful zombie desperately searches for the formula that would reverse his 'zombie-hood' and turn him into a 'real person.' - **Rachel Cordasco**, author of *Out of this World: Speculative Fiction in Translation from the Cold War to the New Millennium*

ABOUT THE BOOK

A Caribbean zombie—smart, gentlemanly, financially independent, and a top executive at an important pharmaceutical company—becomes obsessed with finding the formula that would reverse his condition and allow him to become "a real person." The result is a precise combination of Caribbean noir and science-fiction, Latin American style. Set at the contact zones between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, this is a polyphonic novel, an intense and sometimes funny pharmacopeia of love lost, and humanity regained; a most original combination of Caribbean noir and science-fiction addressing issues of global relevance including novel takes on ecological/apocalyptic imbalance bound to make an impact.

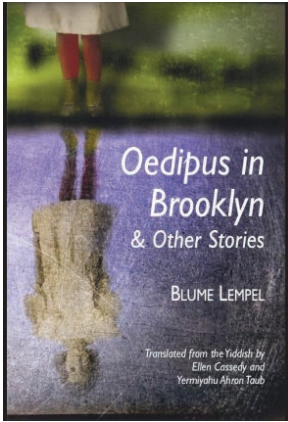
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pedro Cabiya is a poet, screenwriter, and author of the bestselling novels *Trance* and *The Head*, as well as the short-story collection *Historias tremendas* (Pen Club Best Book of the Year). His work has been featured in numerous international anthologies, and his open letters, opinion pieces, and essays on politics, religion, human rights, art, and science regularly become viral phenomena. He has lived in Spain, the United States, Haiti, and Puerto Rico. He currently resides in the Dominican Republic, where he directs the Centre of Modern Languages and Cultures of the Ibero-American University and is principal of Heart of Gold Productions.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Jessica Ernst Powell, an award-winning translator, with a PhD in Hispanic Languages and Literatures from the University of California, Santa Barbara, has translated numerous Latin American authors, including Antonio Benítez-Rojo, Jorge Luis Borges, César Vallejo, Adolfo Bioy Casares, Silvina Ocampo, Edgardo Rivera Martínez, María Moreno, Edmundo Paz-Soldán, among others.

ISBN: 978-1942134114 / Paperback / \$16.95 / 176 pages / 6 x 9
E-ISBN 978-1942134118 / E-Book / \$14.99 / 176 pages



Oedipus in Brooklyn AND OTHER STORIES

by Blume Lempel

Translated from Yiddish by
Ellen Cassedy and Yermiyahu Ahron Taub
Co-published with DRYAD PRESS

Winner of the Modern Language Association's Fania & Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies

"Blume Lempel's short story collection is a splendid surprise and a significant revivification of a brilliantly robust Yiddish-American writer."
- Cynthia Ozick

"These stories are a remarkable achievement. . . . She [writes] with modernist acuity. . . . 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." - Association of Jewish Libraries Newsletter

"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 conducts a conversation across multiple time zones and spheres . . . a heroic effort to create and sustain a choir of voices in Yiddish, her beloved and endangered language." - David G. Roskies, author of *Yiddishlands: A Memoir*

"A wonderfully original and controversial writer. . . . Blume Lempel left a remarkable legacy that this beautifully translated volume finally makes accessible to a wider audience.--Anita Norich, author of *Writing in Tongues: Translating Yiddish in the 20th Century*

"The thematic and stylistic scope of Blume Lempel's writing, as demonstrated admirably by Cassedy and Taub's translations, is wide and richly integrated." - Jeffrey Shandler, author of *Adventures in Yiddishland: Post-vernacular Language and Culture*

"This new translation of Blume Lempel's stories reanimates the melody of Yiddish, the mame-loshen . . . As one of her characters puts it: 'No world language is comparable to Yiddish, to the Yiddish sigh, the Yiddish sense of humor.'" - Victoria Aarons, author of *What Happened to Abraham?*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Blume Lempel (1907–1999) born in Khorostkiv (now Ukraine), 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 the author of *We Are Here*, which explored the world of the Lithuanian Holocaust and won numerous awards, including 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 several volumes of poetry, including *Prayers of a Heretic/Tfiles fun an apikoyres* (2013) and *Uncle Feygele* (2011), Honored by the Museum of Jewish Heritage as one of New York's best emerging Jewish artists, 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/

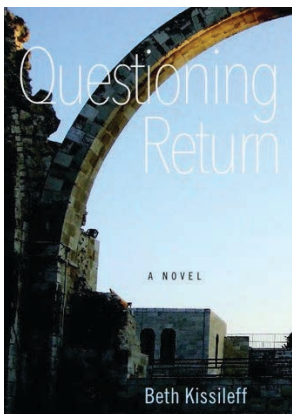
240 Pages / \$18.95

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, *A Guide for the Perplexed*, A Novel, *The World to Come*, and *All Other Nights*

"The brainy, conflicted heroine of Beth Kissileff's heart-stirring debut novel *Questioning Return* goes to Israel to interview *baale 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*, and *The Wedding Jester*,

'Can people change? It seems they do, but how and why? In Beth Kissileff's lovely, widely-learned, and brooding debut novel, graduate student Wendy Goldberg sets off to Jerusalem to propose these questions to others. Unexpectedly, the young scholar finds herself the one questioned while returning to things at once ancient and always new: the porous boundaries between love and passion, the possibilities of transformative faith, and the mysterious nature of holiness in a place that itself seems a living thing to those who have eyes for it.'—**Aryeh Lev Stollman**, author of *The Far Euphrates* and *The Illuminated Soul*

"*Questioning Return* is ... the story of a young woman's attempt to understand the meaning of 'return' but the novel becomes a tale of complex, memorable, and transformative beginnings. This is a novel as rich in the questions it probes as it is in the characters it renders. Beth Kissileff is a fearless, wonderful new writer—a gifted storyteller whose novel is as strong as it is tender."—**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*

"A memorable story of personal challenge and change set against the city's unique spiritual landscape."
J-Weekly

ABOUT THE BOOK

Questioning Return follows an ambitious graduate student, Wendy Goldberg, as she 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? The unexpected answers and her own experiences in Israel, including a bus bombing, a funeral, an unexpected suicide, a love affair, and a lawsuit, lead her to reconsider her own Jewish identity and values. Initially 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 whose writing appears regularly in publications such as the *New York Times*, *The Forward*, *Tablet*, *Haaretz* and *The Jerusalem Post* 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 co-editor of a new collection of stories, *Bound in the Bond of Life: Pittsburgh Writers Reflect on the Tree of Life Tragedy* and the editor of a new anthology, *Reading Genesis: Beginnings*. She lives in Pittsburgh and is at work on a volume of short stories and a second novel.

ISBN: 9781942134237 / Paperback with Flaps /
E-ISBN: 9781942134244 / E-Book /

372 Pages / \$19.95
372 Pages / \$14.99



Max Baer and the Star of David

By Jay Neugeboren

Finalist by Foreword Reviews, 2016 Indie Awards in Adult Literary Fiction

"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, and when I closed the book I thought 'Damn, this dude can write!'" - **Gary Shteyngart**, author of *Little Failure: A Memoir*

"This lively, high-spirited novel is an irresistible tribute to the sweet science, and a thrillingly jaunty evocation of an almost forgotten era. Neugeboren has, as always, the gift of creating vivid characters and the imagination to put them through delicious travails." - **Philip Lopate**, author of *Portrait Inside My Head*

"One of the most accomplished and original writers of our time, Jay Neugeboren has now outdone even himself. With its larger-than-life characters who are all too human, *Max Baer and the Star of David* is a powerful and starkly gritty literary page-turner. Sorry, but I can't resist - this novel is a total knockout." - **Binnie Kirschenbaum**, *Hester Among the Ruins*

"This 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*

"The true hero of the book is imagination... Even readers who don't think themselves interested in sports will enjoy the descriptions and plot developments... 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*

"Jay Neugeboren creates a pair of distinctive fictional characters and deposits them into the life of the legendary Depression-era boxer. The writing is strong and the characters memorable... But Baer's life is mostly used to provide an outline for the story of Neugeboren's fictional narrator, Horace Littlejohn... The real story... is Horace's. He confronts family patterns and fights some important battles outside the ring. The author tells this story well." - **Jeff Fleischer**, *Foreword Reviews*

"[This] is a novel first, a boxing novel second... The real fighters in this novel are the people that surround Max, Horace and Joleen and a woman Horace falls for as a middle-aged man... Jay 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*

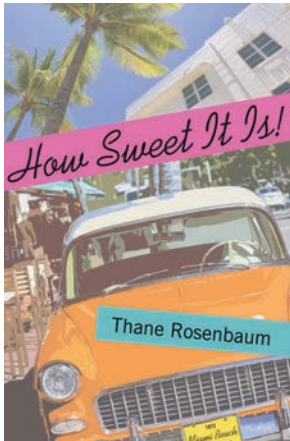
ABOUT THE BOOK

As E. L. Doctorow did in *Ragtime*, in *Max Baer and The Star of David*, Neugeboren has created fictional characters who interact with this real historical character. At the heart of this novel are two mysterious and memorable fictional creations, Max Baer's intimate companions, Horace and Joleen Littlejohn, who present themselves to the world as husband and wife but are, in fact, brother and sister. They become best friends and sometime lovers to Max in this story about the world of boxing, and about Max's life in and out of the ring. The narrator is Horace, and Neugeboren has given him a distinctive and compelling voice in what is, among other things, a strange and affecting interracial love story like no other, where love and violence lie down beside one another in astonishing and surprising ways.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jay Neugeboren is the author of 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*, and *The New York Times*. He is on the faculty of the Writing Program of the Graduate School of the Arts at Columbia University in New York City.

Paper with Flaps ISBN: 9781942134176 208 Pages \$19.95
E-Book ISBN: 9781942134183 208 Pages \$14.99



How Sweet It Is!

By Thane Rosenbaum

Selected as the "Centennial book" by the City of Miami Beach in celebration of its 100th 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 it's cover 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*

"Rosenbaum strives to balance moral seriousness with outrageous antic humor as he tries to make sense of . . . the Holocaust. . . . [M]any will enjoy his take on Miami Beach back in the day. How sweet it all was — in memory, anyway." - **Jewish Week**

ABOUT THE BOOK

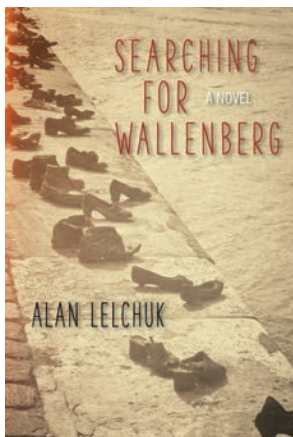
Set in Miami Beach in 1972, *How Sweet It Is!* follows the Posner family—two Holocaust survivors, Sophie and Jacob and their son, Adam—doing everything they can to avoid one another in a city with an infinite supply of colorful diversions. In '72 Miami hosted both the Republican and Democratic political 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.

In this hilarious novel, Sophie Posner becomes a key figure in the Jewish Mafia as crime boss Meyer Lansky exploits her talents in a desperate attempt to restore the Jewish Mafia to its former glory and bring legalized gambling to Florida. Matching wits with the master Yiddish storyteller, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Jacob bemoans his fate at having to cope with, his irrepresible wife, Sophie, and her new fame and relationships. And the Posner's teenage son, Adam acquires valuable lessons on standing one's ground from the World's Fastest Man, Bob Hayes. Collectively, the Posners find their lives quickly turning into a Disney World of funhouse mirrors and chaotic rides that give them front row seats through a transformational year in American culture, politics and world history.

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 University Professor at Touro College where he directs the Forum on Law, Culture & Society.

ISBN: 9781942134015 Trade Paperback	214 Pages	\$16.95
ISBN: 9781942134008 Jacketed Hardcover	214 Pages,	\$24.95
ISBN: 9781942134022 E-Book	214 Pages,	\$12.99



Searching for Wallenberg

By Alan Lelchuk

"At once a detective story and an unusual love story... a novel within a novel filled with multiple layers and surprising characters that all lead to a deeper understanding of this enigmatic hero... A tour-de-force... deftly crafted and replete with distinctive characters and an impressively complex and absorbing original story. A solid entertainment from first page to last, "Searching for Wallenberg" is very highly recommended for community and academic library Fiction collections." - **Midwest Book Review**

"Let me give a word of warning—do not begin this book if you cannot clear your day because once you begin to read...it is impossible to stop. Not only is this a fascinating read, it is documented and we see that not only is author Alan Lelchuk a skilled novelist with a great imagination, he also did heavy research to write this book." - **Amos Lassen, Judaica**

"Offers a fictional account of Wallenberg's life...more illuminating than any history we have or may ever get... Indeed, by the end of the novel, the reader feels closer to understanding the complex nature of Raoul Wallenberg, a man who simultaneously was both a "pure and saintly" character, as well as a "flawed and tainted" individual who undertook an important mission for humanity as an outsider, as a Swede...and as a determined opponent of the brutal Nazi authority." **Louis Gordon, Tikkun**

"The fate of Raoul Wallenberg has remained a mystery for more than seventy years, and Alan Lelchuk's novel uses a fictional investigation to explore the real question of what happened. 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**

"Part detective story, part philosophic inquiry, part historic revisionism, Alan Lelchuk delivers a thinking man's thriller..." - **Jules Feiffer, Pulitzer Prize and Oscar-winning cartoonist**

"Sometimes we are better served by a novelist's imagination than by a professional historian's scholarship... A brilliantly constructed literary investigation into the mysterious life and death of Raoul Wallenberg." - **Michael Walzer, author of Just and Unjust Wars**

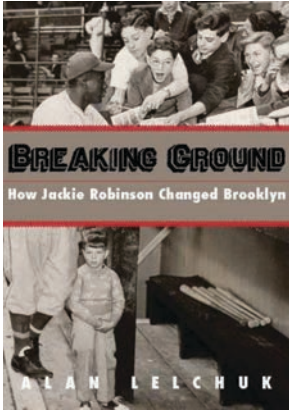
ABOUT THE BOOK

Explores the mysteries still surrounding Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Jews in Budapest in 1944-45, and was arrested by the Soviets in 1945, and taken to Moscow where he disappeared until his apparent death. 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 - as other political prisoners in Europe were - 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. While writing this novel Lelchuk engaged in research traveling to Stockholm, Budapest, and Moscow, where he interviewed historians, mined archives and visited physical sites. He also met with some of the few remaining witnesses, including, most significantly, Wallenberg's KGB interrogator in Lybianka 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	\$16.95
ISBN: 9781942134039 Jacketed Cloth	288 Pages	\$26.95
ISBN: 9781942134059 E-Book	288 Pages	\$14.99



Breaking Ground: How Jackie Robinson Changed Brooklyn

By Alan Lelchuk

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.' In doing so, he attempts to transmit his 'true felt experience' into a coming-of-age narrative in which baseball and Robinson play a singular role delv(ing) into Robinson's complicated life as 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***

Trembanis, *Journal of Sports History*

"A unique look at Jackie's time in Brooklyn told by somebody who was growing up there as it happened. . . . Lelchuk's stories of how the diverse people of Brooklyn identified with Robinson are poignant. After all, many of them had suffered discrimination and persecution, and now their team had a similar outsider who was suffering from discrimination. There are also good stories about the effect Robinson had elsewhere in America, but it's mainly about Brooklyn. You can really tell how much Jackie meant to them and Lelchuk." - **The Baseball Continuum.com**

"A fresh and insightful retelling, Lelchuk's Robinson is both biography and history that implicitly reinterprets cosmopolitan Brooklyn as the crucible of the Civil Rights movement during its formative decade, 1947-1957." - **Martin Sherwin, author of the Pulitzer Prize winner, *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer***

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 \$15.95
E-ISBN: 9781942134084 E-Book 140 Pages \$15.99

ANNOUNCEMENT



Mandel Vilar Press and Fig Tree Books LLC announce a strategic partnership with the establishment a New MVP Imprint: FIG TREE BOOKS

SIMSBURY, CT & BEDFORD, NY (June 1, 2022) — Robert Mandel, publisher of Mandel Vilar Press (MVP), and Fredric Price, publisher of Fig Tree Books LLC (FTB), announced today that the two companies have formed a strategic partnership. Effective immediately, FTB has become an imprint of MVP, and Fredric Price serves as the editor-in-chief of FTB.

Robert Mandel said, “Fig Tree’s mission of publishing the best literature of the American Jewish experience dovetails extraordinarily well with Mandel Vilar Press’s mission of bringing underrepresented and diverse literature of the Americas to a wide audience.” Mandel Vilar Press is an independent publisher established in 2014 to serve as a conduit of multicultural exchange and a crucial channel for advancing diversity in publishing. MVP publishes pan Latinx authors from the Americas as well as the Caribbean and Europe. MVP is dedicated to promoting the best works by ethnic and cultural minorities, under represented nationalities, and communities that have encountered discrimination. Publishing between four to eight titles in fiction and nonfiction each year, MVP issues books that readers will find not only compelling and illuminating but also have the ability to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the world.

Fredric Price added, “With similarly aligned goals and the chance to combine our efforts as well as our lists, this was an opportunity not to be missed. I look forward to continuing to work with new voices that speak to the beautiful and sometimes challenging mosaic of the American Jewish experience.”

FTB is now open for submissions from agents for adult literary fiction and non-fiction—FTB does not publish poetry, autobiographies, novellas, chap books, young adult, sci-fi, or children’s books.

Fig Tree Lit, FTB’s Newsletter that contains short stories, essays, book reviews, chapters from unpublished books, videos, and regular features, will continue to be published on a monthly basis.

For more information about submissions to either FTB or its newsletter, please visit the FTB website.

For more information about MVP or FTB, or to schedule an interview with Robert Mandel or Fredric Price, please contact Rachel Tarlow Gul at Over the River Public Relations: Rachel@OTRPR.com, 201- 503-1321.



About Mandel Vilar Press: Building on a 36-year publishing career, Dr. Robert Mandel launched Mandel Vilar Press in 2014 with longtime colleague, Irene Vilar, founder of the nonprofit Americas for Conservation and the Arts. MVP specializes in books by and about minorities and publishes a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction, including adult and young adult titles, historical novels, and memoirs. MVP seeks books that examine history, politics, culture, genocide, the environment, and environmental justice. It also promotes important translations of Latin American, Caribbean, European, Eastern European, Middle Eastern and Asian writers. MVP's impressive list of authors includes Thane Rosenbaum, Jay Neugeboren, Blume Lempel, Homero Aridjis, Edna Iturralde, Pedro Cabiya, Viliam Klimacek, Theodore Bikel, Judy Bolton-Fasman, Beth Kissileff, Bob Mankoff, and Nava Semel. MVP books have won many awards including the Modern Language Association's Leviant Prize for the best Yiddish translated book, The International Latino Book Award, The Florida Book Gold Medal Award, The Julia Ward Howe Award, Foreword Reviews Gold and Silver Medal, and Skipping Stones Magazine Honor Award. Books are published in hard copy, e-book, and audiobook formats and are distributed to the trade by Consortium, a Division of Ingram Publishing.

Mandel Vilar Press

Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

Robert Mandel can be reached at
Robert@mandelvilar.org.



About Fig Tree Books: Fig Tree Books LLC, established in 2014 by Fredric Price, publishes literature that enlightens the unique American Jewish experience. Noted books include *My Jewish Year* by Abigail Pogrebin and *Saving Free Speech ... from Itself* by Thane Rosenbaum. Other titles include novels from debut and previously published authors, as well as important works that had gone out of print, including *Compulsion* by Meyer Levin and *The Pawnbroker* by Edward Lewis Wallant. Its titles have won more than two dozen literary awards. Forewords for the Company's books have been written by Bret Stephens, Dara Horn, Marcia Clark, Tova Mirvis, Shulem Deen, and A.J. Jacobs. Books are published in hard copy, e-book, and audiobook formats and are now distributed to the trade by Consortium (previously having been distributed by Publishers Group West) both of which are Divisions of Ingram Publishing.

Fig Tree Books LLC

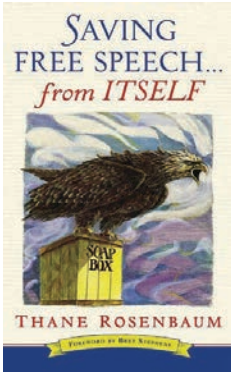
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

Fredric Price can be reached at:
FPrice@FigTreeBooks.net.

Fig Tree Books are now available for sale through Mandel Vilar Press

See Descriptions and Prices

For all Fig Tree Books on the following Pages



Saving Free Speech ... from Itself

by Thane Rosenbaum

Foreword by Bret Stephens

"[Its] fresh perspective [is] a welcome contribution.... Well-presented and instructive...compelling." - **Washington Post**

"This is a brave, incisive book that smartly challenges much of what we take for granted about the First Amendment." - **Scott Turow**, the author of two works of non-fiction about the law and 13 bestselling novels, including *Presumed Innocent* and *The Last Trial*

"The United States and France are both children of the Enlightenment, born from the Age of Rights. Yet only one, France, believes that the protection of human dignity is an essential freedom. Thane Rosenbaum's brave and provocative book makes the case that free speech must co-exist with human dignity. It can't override it. They are united in their shared humanity. Rosenbaum's voice on this subject is singular, and profound." - **Bernard-Henri Lévy**, bestselling author of *The Empire* and *the Five Kings*

"This book will make you think and re-think your positions on free speech—regardless of what those were. It may not change your mind; I still disagree with much of it. But for those of us who value free thought, expression, debate and dissent, Thane Rosenbaum's thought-provoking challenge to current First Amendment norms should be especially welcome." - **Nadine Strossen**, New York Law School Professor, former American Civil Liberties Union National President, and author of *HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship*

ABOUT THE BOOK

In an era of political correctness, race-baiting, terrorist incitement, the 'Danish' cartoons, the shouting down of speakers, and, of course, 'fake news,' liberals and conservatives are up in arms both about speech and its excesses, and what the First Amendment means. Speech has been weaponized. Everyone knows it, but no one seems to know how to make sense of the current confusion, and what to do about it. Thane Rosenbaum's provocative and compelling book is what is needed to understand this important issue at the heart of our society and politics.

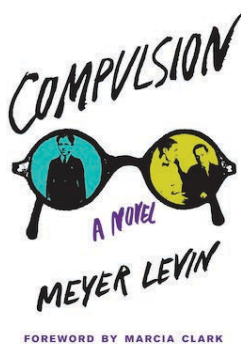
Our nation's founders did not envision speech as a license to trample on the rights of others. And the Supreme Court has decided cases where certain categories of speech are already prohibited without violating the Constitution. Laws banning hate speech are prevalent in other democratic, liberal societies, where speech is not valued above human dignity, and yet in Germany, France, the UK and elsewhere, life continues, freedoms have not rolled to the bottom of the bogeyman of a 'slippery slope,' and democracies remain vibrant. There is already a great deal of second guessing about the limits of free speech. In 1977, courts permitted neo-Nazis to march in a Chicago suburb populated by Holocaust survivors. Today, many wonder whether the alt-right should have been prevented from marching in Charlottesville in 2017. Even the ACLU, which represented both groups, is having doubts as to whether the First Amendment should override basic notions of equality and citizenship.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Thane Rosenbaum is an essayist, law professor, and author of the novels, *How Sweet It Is!*, *The Golems of Gotham*, *Second Hand Smoke*, and *Elijah Visible*, and the nonfiction titles of *The Myth of Moral Justice: Why Our Legal System Fails to Do What's Right* and *Payback: The Case for Revenge*. He is a distinguished University Professor at Touro College and moderator of the 92nd Street Y's *The Talk Show*.

ISBN: 9781941493267 / Hardcover / 305 Pages / Price: \$24.95

E-ISBN: 9781941493274 / E-Book / 314 Pages / Price: \$14.99



Compulsion

by Meyer Levin

Foreword by Marcia Clark

Introduction by Gabriel Levin

"Before Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, before Norman Mailer's *The Executioner's Song*, there was Meyer Levin's *Compulsion*, a docu-novel about the famous Leopold and Loeb murder case in the 1920s... a convincing portrait of two brilliant psychopaths, a narrative capacity for a spellbinding tale, an authentic depiction of the 1920s Chicago moral and political landscape. *Compulsion* is a credible portrait of an era, and an early example of an infamous crime turned into compelling fiction." - **Alan Lelchuk**, author of *American Mischief*

"For nearly a century now, the Leopold and Loeb case has maintained a firm hold on the popular imagination, generating histories, movies, stage dramas, even musicals and comic books. Of this seemingly endless stream of retellings, Levin's lightly fictionalized masterpiece—so true to reality that Leopold himself famously sued the author—remains the most gripping, psychologically penetrating, and purely readable account of one of America's most sensational crimes." - **Harold Schechter**, author of *The Mad Sculptor: The Maniac, The Model, and The Murder that Shook the Nation*

ABOUT THE BOOK

Judd Steiner and Artie Straus have it all: wealth, intelligence, and the world at their feet as part of the elite, upper-crust Jewish community of 1920s Chicago. Artie is handsome, athletic, and popular, but he possesses a hidden, powerful sadistic streak and a desire to dominate. Judd is a weedy introvert, a genius who longs for a companion whom he can idolize and worship. Obsessed with Nietzsche's idea of the superhuman, both boys decide to prove that they are above the laws of man by arbitrarily picking and murdering a Jewish boy in their neighborhood.

This new edition of Meyer Levin's classic literary thriller *Compulsion* reintroduces the fictionalized case of Leopold and Loeb - once considered the crime of the century - to a new generation. This incisive psychological portrait of two young murderers seized the imagination of an era and is generally recognized as paving the way for the first non-fiction novel. *Compulsion* forces us to ask what drives some further into darkness, and some to seek redemption.

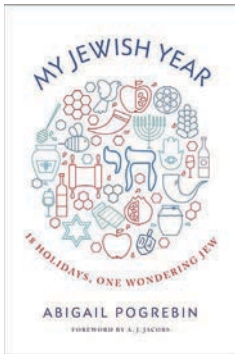
Heartbreaking as it is gripping, *Compulsion* is written with a tense and penetrating force that led the *Los Angeles Times* to call Levin, "the most significant Jewish writer of his times."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Meyer Levin (1905-1981), an American journalist and novelist who worked for the *Chicago Daily News* and was an editor for *Esquire* who wrote over a dozen important award-winning novels between 1929 and 1981 including *The Old Bunch*, *The Stronghold*, *The Story of Israel*, *Compulsion*, and *The Fanatic*.

ISBN: 9781941493021 / Paperback / 482 Pages / Price: \$15.95

E-ISBN: 9781941493038 / E-Book / 482 Pages / Price: \$14.99



My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew

by Abigail Pogrebin

Foreword by A.J. Jacobs

2018 National Jewish Book Award Finalist

"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**, Professor of American Jewish History, Brandeis University; author of *American Judaism: A History*

"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. Pogrebin's style is engaging, and her insights are deep." - **Rabbi Joseph Telushkin**, author of *Rebbe and Jewish Literacy*

"In *My Jewish Year*, Abigail Pogrebin takes on the holiday cycle with a keen mind, an open heart, and a generous sense of humor. This is the perfect gift for anyone thinking about moving up another rung on the ladder of Jewish observance—or for exploring the tradition for the first time." - **Joshua Malina**, actor in *Scandal* and *The West Wing*

"[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—some of which are thousands of years old—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. She is willing to go deep into a complex religious culture to find out if and how it has meaning for her, and in so doing, lights the way for the rest of us. Even if you read every word of her project in the *Forward*—as I did—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.

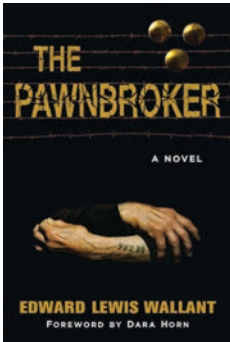
If you're seeking an accessible, digestible roadmap for Jewish life or a fresh exploration of what you've mastered, you'll be educated, entertained, and inspired by Pogrebin's unusual journey—and by *My Jewish Year*.

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 / Price: \$22.95

E-ISBN: 9781941493212 / eBook / 245 Pages / Price: \$14.99



The Pawnbroker

by Edward Lewis Wallant
Foreword by Dara Horn

Finalist for the National Jewish Book Award and one of the first novels to depict the lingering trauma of the Holocaust is newly reprinted with an introduction by best-selling author, Dara Horn

"A New York pawnbroker reckons with the loss of his family in the Holocaust in one of the first American novels to confront the atrocity." - Kirkus

"Arguably one of the greatest fiction treatments of Holocaust survivors ever written" - Nat Bernstein, Jewish Book Council

"We don't need to imagine how shocking *The Pawnbroker* must have been to readers in the early 1960s because it is still shocking to us." - Eileen Pollack, author of *In the Mouth and Breaking and Entering*

"Post-Holocaust novel par excellence. Timeless and well ahead of its time. Lose yourself in Wallant's lyrically imbued world of traumatic memories and its collision with contemporary life." - Thane Rosenbaum, author of *The Golems of Gotham, Second Hand Smoke and Elijah Visible*

ABOUT THE BOOK

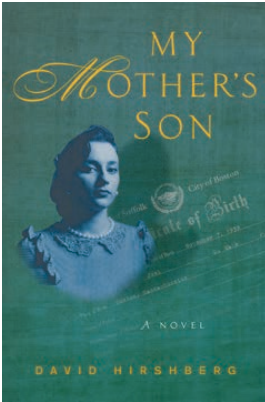
For most people, remembering the Holocaust requires effort; we listen to stories, watch films, read histories. But the people who are known as "survivors" could not avoid their memories. Sol Nazerman, the protagonist of *The Pawnbroker*, is one such sufferer. At 45, Nazerman, who survived Bergen-Belsen concentration camp—although his wife and children did not—runs a Harlem pawnshop. Nazerman's dreams are haunted by visions of his past tortures. The novel is likewise a valuable exploration of the fraught relationships between Jews and other American minority groups.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Edward Lewis Wallant was a most promising Jewish writer but unfortunately, he died in December 1962 at the age of 36, a year after the publication of *The Pawnbroker*. The book sold more than 500,000 copies soon after it was published. In 1960 Wallant published another award-winning novel, *The Human Season* which won the Harry and Ethel Daroff Memorial Fiction Award for the best novel on a Jewish theme. Two additional novels—*The Children at the Gate* and *Moonbloom* were published posthumously. The Daroff Award was subsequently renamed The Edward Lewis Wallant Award presented annually at the University of Hartford.

Dara Horn who wrote the Foreword for this latest edition of *The Pawnbroker* is an award-winning author of six books including *In the Image, The World to Come, A Guide for the Perplexed* and *People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a haunted Present*.

ISBN: 9781941493144 / Paperback / 279 Pages / \$15.95
E-ISBN: 9781941493151 / 298 Page / \$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 Cavalier & 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.... The narrative shifts from the past to the present 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 story of a family's life in Jewish Boston and grows as big as a century. Fascism lurks. Polio carries off its prey. Only-in-Boston characters pop up.... Time rushes in only to roll back as the stories within stories reveal truths not only about one family and one city, but about America in the 1950s and, by extension, today." – **Paul Goldberg, author of *The Yid***

"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.

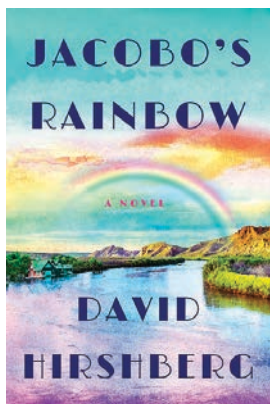
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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

E-ISBN: 9781941493236 / E-Book / 370 Pages / Price: 14.99

ISBN Audio:



Jacob'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*

"Jacob'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. Jacob'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 Jacob'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*

"Jacob'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

Jacob'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.

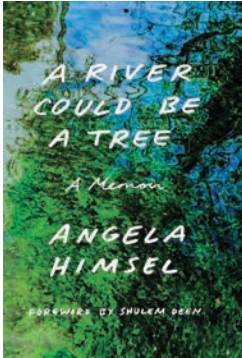
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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

Audio ISBN:



A River Could Be a Tree

by Angela Himsel,

Foreword by Shulem Deen

"An intriguing tale of one woman's search for identity and community." - Kirkus Reviews.

"Inspiring and brave, *A River Could Be a Tree* defines...the freedom to discover our own unique path in life and the courage to choose it... Her story serves as a powerful reminder that we don't have to settle for what is expected of us. We can all find pieces of ourselves reflected in this delightful memoir." - Ruth Wariner, author of *New York Times* bestseller, *The Sound of Gravel: A Memoir*

"This coming-of-age memoir takes the reader from the faith of a childhood immersed in the Worldwide Church of God, to Orthodox Jewish New York, by way of Israel and Germany." - Lucia Greenhouse, author of *fathermothergod: My Journey Out of Christian Science*

"An odyssey of love and faith, told in a voice mixed with pathos and humor. Angela Himsel shows us how intricate, layered, and painful are the bounds of family, and finally how it is possible to honor both the ties we are born with and the ones we choose to create on our own." - Gabrielle Selz, author of *Unstill Life: A Daughter's Memoir of Art and Love in the Age of Abstraction*

"Honest, yet humane, Himsel masterfully describes her spiritual walk along life's long-narrow bridge from an impoverished childhood in rural Indiana with parents fiercely devoted to an apocalyptic cult and ending in the embracing warmth of the Jewish community of the Upper West Side. Her journey is a testament to the importance of having no fear. In this regard, Himsel is not just a force of nature; she's the Mary Karr (author of *The Liar's Club* and *Lit*) of Indiana." - Mort Zachter, author of *Dough: A Memoir*, AWP Award Winner

"*A River Could Be a Tree* is a riveting, intimate memoir of growing up in rural America in a family of eleven children with a father who is an avid follower of an Evangelical Christian sect. With boundless curiosity and rigorous erudition, Angela Himsel navigates a spiritual life while deftly melding the personal with the compelling realities of life in a cult and cultural norms in other religions. Sprawling several religious worlds, this tragicomic memoir is spellbinding." - Eva Fogelman, author of *Conscience and Courage: Rescuers of Jews During the Holocaust*

ABOUT THE BOOK AND THE AUTHOR

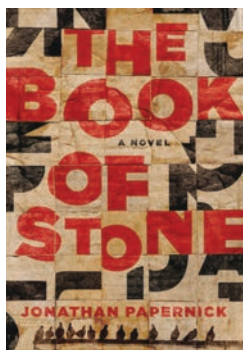
Angela Himsel was raised in a German American family, one of eleven children who shared a single bathroom in their rented ramshackle farmhouse in Indiana. The Himsels followed an evangelical branch of Christianity—the Worldwide Church of God—which espoused a doomsday philosophy. Only faith in Jesus, the Bible, significant tithing, and the church's leader could save them from the evils of American culture—divorce, television, makeup, and even medicine.

Himsel believed that the Bible was the guidebook to being saved, and only strict adherence to the church's tenets could allow her to escape a certain, gruesome death, receive the Holy Spirit, and live forever in the Kingdom of God. With self-preservation in mind, she decided, at nineteen, to study at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem. But instead of strengthening her faith, Himsel was introduced to a whole new world—one with different people and perspectives. Her eyes were slowly opened to the church's shortcomings, even dangers, and fueled her natural tendency to question everything she had been taught, including the guiding principles of the church and the words of the Bible itself. Ultimately, the connection to God she so relentlessly pursued was found in the most unexpected place: a mikvah on Manhattan's Upper West Side. This devout Christian Midwesterner found her own form of salvation—as a practicing Jewish woman.

Angela Himsel's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Jewish Week*, *Forward*, *Lilith* and elsewhere. She received an American Jewish Press Association Award for her column "Angetevka" on Zeek.net.

ISBN: 9781941493243 / Jacketed hardcover / 288 Pages / Price: \$23.95

E-ISBN: 9781941493250 / E-Book / 300 Pages / \$14.99



The Book of Stone

by Jonathan Papernick

"The Book of Stone is a psychological thriller with a complex soul. In the tradition of writers like Robert Stone and Ian McEwan, Papernick describes the quest to save oneself by redeeming history, and the perilous consequences that arise from confusing the two tasks. It's a harrowing, distinguished book." - **Steve Stern**, author of *The Wedding Jester* and *The Angel of Forgetfulness*

"The Book of Stone is going to have everyone on the planet talking. Blistering smart, provocative and passionate, Papernick's astounding novel layers a complex father and son story onto the Jewish/Arab conflict, where fierce loyalties and stunning betrayals are about to detonate. Nothing is as it seems in this divided American world: the political becomes personal, religious faith overrides family, and fear can shatter the possibility of love. An astonishing achievement that's sure to ignite dialogue." - **Caroline Leavitt**, New York Times bestselling author of *This Tomorrow* and *Pictures of You*

"Devastating, gripping and beautiful. The Book of Stone is about fathers and sons, how the past haunts the present, how trauma transcends generations and how wrong we can be about those who made us who we are.... Open this book carefully. You will close it changed." - **Dara Horn**, award-winning author of *The World to Come* and *A Guide for the Perplexed*

"Equal parts thriller and literary epic—a smart, haunting novel that entertains as it appraises. Papernick writes with impressive breadth....an important read for our historical moment." - **Sara Novic**, author of *Girl at War*

ABOUT THE BOOK

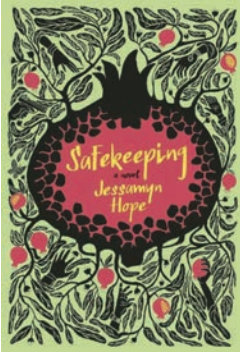
The Book of Stone examines the evolution of the terrorist mentality and the complexities of religious extremism, as well as how easily a vulnerable mind can be exploited for dark purposes. Matthew Stone has inherited a troubling legacy: a gangster grandfather and a distant father—who is also a disgraced judge. After his father's death, Matthew is a young man alone. He turns to his father's beloved books for comfort, perceiving within them guidance that leads him to connect with a group of religious extremists. As Matthew immerses himself in this unfamiliar world, the FBI seeks his assistance to foil the group's violent plot. Caught between these powerful forces, haunted by losses past and present, and desperate for redemption, Matthew charts a course of increasing peril—for himself and for everyone around him. Lyrical and incendiary, *The Book of Stone* is a masterfully crafted novel that reveals the ambiguities of "good" and "evil".

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A Canadian-born American writer, Papernick is the author of two collections of stories, *The Ascent of Eli Israel* and *There is No Other* and two novels, *The Book of Stone* and *I am My Beloveds*. He is a senior writer-in-residence at Emerson College in Boston

ISBN: 9781941493045 / Paperback / 389 Pages / Price \$15.95

E-ISBN 9781941493052 / eBook / 402 Pages / Price \$14.99



Safekeeping

A Novel

by Jessamyn Hope

"Luminous, irreverent, and ambitious... Full of romance, tragedy, betrayal, and the constant reminder that chaos is a driving force in everyone's story... a wise and memorable debut by a novelist of great talent and originality." - **The Boston Globe**

"This emotional journey will leave readers with aching hearts and deepened empathy for waifs and strays of our world." - Shelf Awareness, starred review

"This beautiful story of loss and hope sweeps artfully through 600 years of Jewish resilience. With its richly drawn, believable characters and its great sensitivity, Hope's novel is a striking debut." - **Booklist**

"An intricate tapestry of love and longing, failure, and redemption. Not every character will be saved but readers will keep rooting for them." - **Library Journal**

"There is no writer whose first novel I have awaited more eagerly than Jessamyn Hope, and *Safekeeping* surpasses my expectations. It's a brilliant and captivating novel about the past, the present, and the future, about love and legacy, and it is written with Hope's singular blend of intelligence, clarity, and grace." - **Peter Cameron**, author of *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You* and *Coral Glynn*

"Jessamyn Hope has wrought something wonderful... she writes brilliantly... Like the exquisite gold brooch that shimmers emblematically at its center, *Safekeeping* seems to glow with a rich patina of timelessness, the sign of true art. Listen, do yourself a huge favor, read this book." - **Mark Dintendass**, author of *Old World, New World* and *A Loving Place*

ABOUT THE BOOK

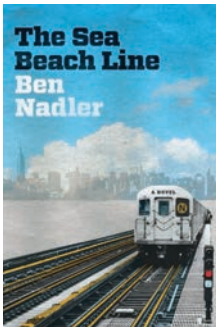
A dazzling debut novel about love, loss, and the courage it takes to start over. It's 1994 and Adam, a drug addict from New York City, arrives at a kibbutz in Israel with a medieval sapphire brooch. To redress a past crime, he must give the priceless heirloom to a woman his grandfather loved when he was a Holocaust refugee on the kibbutz fifty years earlier. But first, he must track this mystery woman down—a task that proves more complicated than expected. On the kibbutz Adam joins other lost souls: Ulya, the ambitious and beautiful Soviet émigré; Farid, the lovelorn Palestinian farmhand; Claudette, the French-Canadian Catholic with OCD; Ofir, the Israeli teenager wounded in a bus bombing; and Ziva, the old Socialist Zionist firebrand who founded the kibbutz. Driven together by love, hostility, hope, and fear, their fates become forever entangled as they each get one last shot at redemption. In the middle of that fateful summer glows the magnificent brooch with its perilous history spanning three continents and seven centuries. With insight and beauty, *Safekeeping* tackles that most human of questions: How can we expect to find meaning and happiness when we know that nothing lasts?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

An award-winning writer of fiction and memoir with an MFA in creative writing from Sarah Lawrence College, her debut novel, *Safekeeping* was a *Boston Globe* recommended read, acclaimed by *The Montreal Gazette*, *The Jerusalem Post*, and *Tablet Magazine*; A New York Public Library and National Jewish Book Club Pick and a number 2 on a BuzzFeed, 53 Books You Won't Be Able to Put Down. Her short memoirs received two Pushcart Prize honorable mentions and named a Best American Notable Essay in 2020

ISBN: 9781941493069 / Paperback / 371 Pages / Price: \$15.95

E-ISBN 9781941493076 / eBook/ 386 Pages / Price: \$14.99



The Sea Beach Line

A Novel

by Ben Nadler

"The confluence of a byzantine plot, intriguing references to Jewish folktales and the Talmud, and an epic storm results in an updated noir providing a glimpse of the Brooklyn and downtown Manhattan hidden from tourists and hipsters alike." – **Kirkus**

"A brilliant and profound tale of one young man's search for identity, and the stories we tell ourselves." - **Foreword Reviews Magazine INDIES Bronze Winner, Adult Fiction**

"Astonishingly powerful, thoughtful, and more than a bit troubling, but it is not to be missed." - **Philip K. Jason, Washington Independent Review of Books**

"Nadler's *Sea Beach Line* is a hypnotizing mosaic of stories within stories whose layers piece together a fascinating mystery of a young man's search for his father." - **Brendan Kiely, author of *The Gospel of Winter***

The Sea Beach Line is a thriller, and a very good one. Beyond that, it's a thriller informed by the lore of Jewish mysticism, with its sacred texts and burning words and true and false messiahs, and by themes of paternity and patrimony: what it is our fathers leave us, even the fathers we never knew. It gripped me by the throat and wouldn't let go." - **Peter Trachtenberg, author of *Another Insane Devotion***

ABOUT THE BOOK

Fans of Nathan Englander's *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges*, and Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* will relish to Ben Nadler's combined mystery, love story, and homage to text and custom.

Set in post-Giuliani New York City, *The Sea Beach Line* melds mid-20th-century pulp fiction and traditional Jewish folklore as it updates the classic story of a young man trying to find his place in the world. After being expelled from Oberlin for hallucinogenic drug use, Izzy Edel seeks out his estranged father—a Polish Jew turned Israeli soldier turned New York Street vendor named Alojzy who is reported to be missing, possibly dead. To learn about Alojzy's life and discover the truth behind his disappearance, Izzy takes over his father's outdoor bookselling business and meets the hustlers, gangsters, and members of a religious sect who peopled his father's world. He also falls in love. As Izzy soon discovers, appearances can deceive; no one, not even his own father, is quite whom he seems to be. Vowing to prove himself equal to Alojzy's legacy of fearlessness, Izzy plunges forward on a criminal enterprise that will bring him answers—at great personal cost.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ben Nadler, a writer based in New York State, received his BA from the New School and a MFA in Creative Writing from CUNY and is pursuing a Ph.D. in English at SUNY Albany. His previous publications include the punk rock novel, *Harvitz*, *As to War*, and a nonfiction book, *Punk in NYC's Lower East Side: 1981-1991*.

ISBN: 9781941493083 / Paperback / 385 Pages / Price: \$15.95

E-ISBN: 9781941493090 / eBook / 338 Pages / Price \$14.99



Prayers for the Living

by Alan Cheuse

Foreword by Tova Mirvis

"A challenging and intelligent novel, replete with beauty and heartbreak, and perhaps even containing a measure of redemption." -- **Foreword Reviews**

"Deserves to live among the great novels of Jewish American experience. It is a book that bears the weight of something old yet feels new and utterly alive at the same time." - **Tova Mirvis**, author of *The Ladies Auxiliary*, *The Outside World*, and *Visible City*, from the Foreword.

"Cheuse enlarges the immigrant tale of aspiration and loss. His narrator, in a lyrically heightened dialect as bold and capacious as the voices of William Faulkner, propels the story toward its conclusion with a dire largeness of scope that deserves the word "tragic." - **Robert Pinsky**, author of *Gulf Music*

"At once tender and brutal, unsparing and wise, *Prayers for the Living*, masterfully ventriloquizes not only the voices of Manny and the people he cherishes and destroys, but those of an entire America staring at itself in a cracked mirror." – **Boris Fishman**, Author of *A Replacement Life*

ABOUT THE BOOK

As a novel both grand in its vision and loving in its familiarity, *Prayers for the Living* presents a series of conversations between grandmother, Minnie Bloch and her companions unfolding a layered portrait of three generations of the Bloch family, whose members are collapsing under everyday burdens and betrayals. Her son, Manny is a renowned, almost legendary rabbi. Respected by his congregants, and surrounded by family, no one suspects that he yearns for a life of greater personal glory, but when an oracular bird delivers what Manny believes to be a message from his deceased father, he abandons his congregation in pursuit of a life in business and his entire life spirals out of control.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alan Cheuse, an American writer, editor, professor of literature, and radio commentator, had been reviewing books on *All Things Considered* since the 1980s. He was the author of five novels, five collections of short stories and novellas, and a memoir *Fall Out of Heaven*. He taught writing at George Mason University, spent his summers in Santa Cruz, California, and led fiction workshops at Squaw Valley Community of Writers. He died unexpectedly in a car crash shortly after this book was published.

ISBN: 9781941493007 / Paperback / 392 Pages / Price: \$15.95

E-ISBN: 9781941493014 / eBook / 394 Pages / Price: \$14.99

ORDERING & SUBSCRIBING

Ask your local library and Bookstore to order these books:

Trade Distribution: Consortium Book Sales and Distribution (CBSD) The phone number is 800-283-3572 Email orders can be sent to sales.orders@cbsd.com

Individual book orders and other non-trade orders can be purchase at our new shopping cart on our website: www.mvpublishers.org.

Special discounted or bulk orders should be sent to: Robert Mandel, Publisher at Robert@mandelvilar.org or call 806-790-4731 or by snail mail to Mandel Vilar Press, 19 Oxford Court, Simsbury CT 06070

HOW TO DONATE

MVP is the publishing arm of the nonprofit organization, Americas for Conservation + the Arts (AFC+A). Its primary goal is to publish important books in the areas represented by AFC+A.

Sales revenue is not sufficient to cover all of our publication expenses. Private giving from individuals and foundations is essential to bridge this critical gap. All donations are tax exempt.

Contributions to the Americas for Conservation + the Arts for MVP can enable us to:

- Discover, develop, and disseminate influential ideas and knowledge to growing audiences
- Sustain its commitment to intellectual integrity and publishing of the highest caliber
- Embark on new and expanded initiatives such as digital publishing
- General Gifts re used wherever funds are needed most in the current year
- Individual Books and Named Books Series Sponsorships support development and production costs such as translation, editing, illustrations, permissions, design, manufacturing, and special marketing
- Program and operating grants provide multi-year support for translations and the planning and launch of strategic book and book marketing initiatives
- Endowment Funds support MVP programs in perpetuity

Levels of support and donations at MVP are:

Catalysts	(\$25,000+)
Patrons	(\$10,000-\$24,999)
Partners	(\$5,000-\$9,999)
Friends	(\$1,000-\$4,999)
Associates	(\$500-\$999)
Participants	(\$25-\$499)

AFC+A donate link



For more information, contact either Irene Vilar or Robert Mandel at:
irene@americasforconservation.org • Robert@mandelvilar.org



MANDEL VILAR PRESS

501 (c) (3)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Irene Vilar
Dr. Robert Mandel
Doug Unger
Toti Cadavid
Mirta Ojito
Keirstin Beck
Rudy Arredondo
So Young Lee

ADVISORY BOARD

Harold Augenbraum, Director of National Book Foundation
Junot Díaz, Author
Bonny Fetterman, Jewish Studies Editor and Literary Agent
Rigoberto Gonzalez, Author & Professor (Rutgers University)
Edith Grossman, Translator
Naomi Lindstrom, Professor (University of Texas)
Adriana V. Lopez, Author & Reporter (New York Times)
Mirta Ojito, Author & Prof., Columbia University
Chad W. Post, Publisher, Open Letter
Gregory Rabassa, Translator & Prof. (Queens College)
Luis J. Rodriguez, Author
Thane Rosenbaum, Novelist and Senior Fellow at NYU School of Law
Margaret Sayers Peden, Translator
Doug Unger, Author & Professor (UNLV)
Steve Stern, Writer-in-Residence, Skidmore College

MVPublishers.org

Robert A. Mandel, Publisher
Robert@mandelvilar.org
Irene Vilar, Co Publisher
irene@americasforconservation.org

Mandel Vilar Press
19 Oxford Court,
Simsbury, CT 06070
806-790-4731

Mandel Vilar Press
3555 Pecos Street, Denver,
Colorado 80211
303-330-6597

STAFF

Robert Mandel, Co Founder, Publisher
Irene Vilar, Co Founder, Associate Publisher
Dena Mandel, Editorial Director
Fred Price, Editor-in-Chief, Fig Tree Books Imprint
Barbara Werden, Production Manager
Armando Gonzalez, Creatives Director
Mary Beth Hinton, Manuscript and Production Editor

Advancing diversity and conservation in publishing