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2014 NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARDS ANNOUNCED

***Jewish Lives* Series Wins Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award**

New York, January 14, 2014 – The Jewish Book Council announced the winners of the 2014 National Jewish Book Awards today. **The Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award** is awarded to Yale University Press's *Jewish Lives Series* (Heene Smith, editorial director; Steven J. Zipperstein and Anita Shapira, series editors), marking the first time in the award's history that a series has been honored.

For the past five years, the Leon D. Black Foundation and Yale University Press have collaborated on the diverse series of brief, interpretive biography known as *Jewish Lives*. Offering insight into the lives of great figures in Jewish history, the series carefully pairs subjects with distinguished writers to meaningfully illuminate the question of what it means to be Jewish. Thus far, sixteen *Jewish Lives* titles have been published. The series launched with Robert Gottlieb's life of *Sarah Bernhardt*, and recent titles have included Yehudah Mirsky's *Rav Kook*, David Wolpe's *David*, and Anita Shapira's *Ben-Gurion*. Forthcoming in 2015 are Annie Cohen-Solal's *Mark Rothko*, Lee Siegel's *Groucho Marx*, Stephen Gimbel's *Albert Einstein*, Pierre Birnbaum's *Leon Blum*, and Benjamin Taylor's *Proust*. JBC seeks to highlight and applaud the publisher, Yale University Press, for taking on this important task as well as show support for the endeavor and continue to nurture an audience for works that share the stories and people at the front lines of our collective history.

“I think there is a hunger for books that zero in on the fascinating questions at the core of the Jewish experience, whether secular or religious.”—**Leon Black**

The **Sephardic Culture Mimi S. Frank Award in Memory of Becky Levy** is awarded to *Sephardi Lives: A Documentary History, 1700–1950* (Stanford University Press), a diverse collection edited by Julia Phillips Cohen and Sarah Abrevaya Stein which includes over 150 primary sources by or about Sephardi Jews. Cohen, who also received this year’s **JDC- Herbert Katzki Award in Writing Based on Archival Material** for *Becoming Ottomans: Sephardi Jews and Imperial Citizenship in the Modern Era* (Oxford University Press), is the first in the history of the National Jewish Book Awards to win with two separate books in two separate categories in the same year. Stein was also the 2010 recipient of the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature for her book *Plumes*.

The winners of the 2014 National Jewish Book Awards will be honored on **March 11th, 2015 at a gala awards ceremony** at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan. The ceremony, which begins at **8:00pm**, is free and open to the public. Press may reserve their seat for the awards ceremony by contacting Mimi Frank at the Jewish Book Council at mimi@jewishbooks.com.

About the National Jewish Book Awards: As the longest-running North American awards program in the field of Jewish literature, the National Jewish Book Awards recognizes outstanding books of Jewish interest. Awards will be given out this year in 16 categories. A complete list of the 2014 National Jewish Book Award winners and finalists follows. Additional information is available at www.jewishbookcouncil.org.

2014 JEWISH BOOK AWARDS

Jewish Book of the Year

Everett Family Foundation Award

Yale University Press’s Jewish Lives Series

Ileene Smith, editorial director

Steven J. Zipperstein and Anita Shapira, series editors

American Jewish Studies

Celebrate 350 Award

Winner:

The Rag Race: How Jews Sewed Their Way to Success in America and the British Empire

Adam D. Mendelsohn

NYU Press

Finalists:

After They Closed the Gates: Jewish Illegal Immigration to the United States, 1921-1965

Libby Garland

The University of Chicago Press

Biography, Autobiography, Memoir

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

Winner:

The Impossible Exile: Stefan Zweig at the End of the World

George Prochnik

Other Press

Finalists:

Little Failure: A Memoir

Gary Shteyngart

Random House

Rebbe: The Life and Teachings of Menachem M. Schneerson, the Most Influential Rabbi in Modern History

Joseph Telushkin

HarperWave

David: The Divided Heart

David Wolpe

Yale University Press

Children's and Young Adult Literature

Winner:

Spinoza: The Outcast Thinker

Devra Lehmann

Namelos

Finalists:

Storm

Donna Jo Napoli
Simon and Schuster

Tucson Jo

Carol Matas
Fictive Press

I Lived on Butterfly Hill

Marjorie Agosin; Lee White, illus.
Atheneum Books for Young Readers

Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice

Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award

Winner:

A Guide to the Complex: Contemporary Halakhic Debates
Shlomo M. Brody
Maggid

Finalists:

Maps and Meaning: Levitical Models for Contemporary Care
Jo Hirschmann and Nancy H. Wiener
Fortress Press

The December Project: An Extraordinary Rabbi and a Skeptical Seeker Confront Life's Greatest Mystery

Sara Davidson
HarperOne

The Soul of Jewish Social Justice

Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz
Urim Publications

Education and Jewish Identity

In Memory of Dorothy Kripke

Winner:

A Philosophy of Havruta: Understanding and Teaching the Art of Text Study in Pairs
Elie Holzer with Orit Kent
Academic Studies Press

Finalist:

Got Religion?: How Churches, Mosques, and Synagogues Can Bring Young People Back
Naomi Schaefer Riley

Templeton Press

Fiction

JJ Greenberg Memorial Award

Winner:

The Betrayers

David Bezmozgis

Little, Brown and Company

Finalists:

The UnAmericans

Molly Antopol

W.W. Norton & Company

The Luminous Heart of Jonah S.

Gina B. Nahai

Akashic Books

A Replacement Life

Boris Fishman

HarperCollins

To Rise Again at a Decent Hour

Joshua Ferris

Little, Brown and Company

History

Gerrard and Ella Berman Memorial Award

Winner:

The Golden Age Shtetl: A New History of Jewish Life in East Europe

Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern

Princeton University Press

Finalists:

Herzl's Vision: Theodor Herzl and the Foundation of the Jewish State

Shlomo Avineri; Haim Watzman, trans.

BlueBridge

We Called Him Rabbi Abraham: Lincoln and American Jewry, A Documentary History

Gary Philip Zola

Southern Illinois University Press

Holocaust

Winner:

Violins of Hope: Violins of the Holocaust—Instruments of Hope and Liberation in Mankind's Darkest Hour

James A. Grymes

Harper Perennial

Finalists:

Eichmann Before Jerusalem: The Unexamined Life of a Mass Murderer

Bettina Stangneth; Ruth Martin, trans.

Knopf

Gates of Tears: The Holocaust in the Lublin District

David Silberklang

Yad Vashem

Conscripted Slaves: Hungarian Jewish Forced Laborers on the Eastern Front During the Second World War

Robert Rozett

Yad Vashem

Illustrated Children's Book

Louis Posner Memorial Award

Winner:

The Patchwork Torah

Allison Ofanansky; Elsa Oriol, illus.

Kar-Ben Publishing

Finalists:

Never Say a Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain

Jacqueline Jules; Durga Yael Bernhard, illus.

Wisdom Tales

The Whispering Town

Jennifer Elvgren; Fabio Santomauro, illus.

Kar-Ben Publishing

Modern Jewish Thought and Experience

Dorot Foundation Award in Memory of Joy Ungerleider Mayerson

Winner:

The Koren Ani Tefillah Siddur

Jay Goldmintz and Jonathan Sacks

Koren Publishers Jerusalem

Finalists:

On the Relationship of Mitzvot Between Man and His Neighbor and Man and His Maker

Daniel Sperber
Urim Publications

Maps and Meaning: Levitical Models for Contemporary Care
Jo Hirschmann and Nancy H. Wiener
Fortress Press

Israel: Is It Good for the Jews?
Richard Cohen
Simon & Schuster

Outstanding Debut Fiction

Foundation for Jewish Culture's Goldberg Prize

Winner:

The Mathematician's Shiva
Stuart Rojstaczer
Penguin Books

Finalists:

The Ice Cream Queen of Orchard Street
Susan Jane Gilman
Grand Central Publishing

The Marrying of Chani Kaufman
Eve Harris
Grove Press, Black Cat

The UnAmericans
Molly Antopol
W.W. Norton & Company

You Shall Know Our Names
Ezekiel Nieto Benzion
CreateSpace

Scholarship

Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award

Winner:

Outside the Bible, 3-Volume Set: Ancient Jewish Writings Related to Scripture
Louis H. Feldman, James L. Kugel and Lawrence H. Schiffman, eds.
Jewish Publication Society

Finalist:

We Called Him Rabbi Abraham: Lincoln and American Jewry, A Documentary History

Gary Philip Zola
Southern Illinois University Press

Sephardic Culture

Mimi S. Frank Award in Memory of Becky Levy

Winner:

Sephardi Lives: A Documentary History, 1700–1950
Julia Cohen and Sarah Abrevaya Stein, eds.
Stanford University Press

Finalists:

The Business of Identity: Jews, Muslims and Economic Life in Medieval Egypt
Phillip Ackerman-Lieberman
Stanford University Press

Mediterranean Enlightenment: Livornese Jews, Tuscan Culture, and Eighteenth-Century Reform
Francesca Bregoli
Stanford University Press

Becoming Ottomans: Sephardi Jews and Imperial Citizenship in the Modern Era
Julia Phillips Cohen
Oxford University Press

Women's Studies

Barbara Dobkin Award

Winner:

A Question of Tradition: Women Poets in Yiddish, 1586-1987
Kathryn Hellerstein
Stanford University Press

Finalists:

Practicing Piety in Medieval Ashkenaz: Men, Women, and Everyday Religious Observance
Elisheva Baumgarten
University of Pennsylvania Press

Chapters of the Heart: Jewish Women Sharing the Torah of our Lives
Sue Levi Elwell and Nancy Fuchs Kreimer
Wipf and Stock Publishers

Writing Based on Archival Material

The JDC-Herbert Katzki Award

Winner:

Becoming Ottomans: Sephardi Jews and Imperial Citizenship in the Modern Era

Julia Phillips Cohen
Oxford University Press

Finalists:

Mediterranean Enlightenment: Livornese Jews, Tuscan Culture, and Eighteenth-Century Reform

Francesca Bregoli
Stanford University Press

Jewish Rights, National Rites: Nationalism and Autonomy in Late Imperial and Revolutionary Russia

Simon Rabinovitch
Stanford University Press