Join Us For Our

Celebrating 20 Years of Jewish Culture & Literature

October 28 - November 11

Comedy, Culture, Classics & Couture

The Promise of Israel
Daniel Gordis
November 4

Martinis & Merriment with Delia Ephron
November 5

Men's Comedy Night "BEER 'n BOOKS"
OCTOBER 29

"Perfect is Overrated" Women's Fashion Show
November 1
welcome to our 20th Anniversary!

How fortunate we are to be able to celebrate 20 years of Jewish culture and literature this year! We are so thankful to Sheldon Lane, who fostered and nourished the concept for this Festival 20 years ago, and to the Lane Dworkin family, who have continued Sheldon’s dream of bringing Jewish culture to our community.

A book can take us on adventures we would never otherwise experience, sending us to countries we might never visit and introducing us to people we might not ever meet. A book allows us to climb mountains, dive in the ocean, drive too fast and try on different personalities, and a good book has the power to transform.

As we celebrate this very special 20th year, we hope to transform your experience of the Festival by bringing you events and experiences never before offered. Join us for a beer at our Men’s Comedy Night, sip some wine and taste some tapas at our red carpet Women’s Fashion Show, listen to literary excellence from Erika Driefus, Jay Michaelson and Jillian Medoff, have dinner with Daniel Gordis, and martinis with Delia Ephron. It’s a Festival, and it’s going to be fantastic!

We especially thank the Farash Foundation for their support of our Special 20th Anniversary celebration this year.

We hope you will join us for a truly transformative celebration! See you at the Festival.

Lori Michlin Harter, Director
Lane Dworkin Jewish Book Festival

Karen Zivan, Chair
Lane Dworkin Jewish Book Festival

P.S. As you turn the pages of this brochure, please enjoy the timeline of exciting authors, events and all the fun that we’ve shared over the past two decades!

the festival

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With Fond Memories of Sheldon A. Lane...
The Lane Dworkin Jewish Book Festival is presented in memory of Sheldon A. Lane. His vision for the Jewish Book Festival continues through the support of his loving family.

visit rjbf.org
Thank You to our generous supporters

Lane Dworkin Jewish Book Festival Mission Statement
The Lane Dworkin Jewish Book Festival exists to create a showcase for Jewish authors and/or books of Jewish content. In so doing, the Festival promotes awareness, appreciation and pride in the diversity of the Jewish people; strengthens community consciousness of Jewish identity, history and culture; and provides a community forum to stimulate dynamic provocative dialogue.

AUTHOR $5,000+
Barnes and Noble
Lane Dworkin Family
M&T Bank
Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation

PUBLISHER $2,500+
Ames Amzalak Memorial Trust

ESSAYIST $1,000+
Mona Friedman Kolko Family Fund
Futerman Supporting Foundation: Sara Futerman, Daphne Futerman and Ira Jevotovsky, Eli and Peggy Futerman, Debby and Elliott Landsman
Dawn and Jacques Lipson, M.D., Philanthropic Fund
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NOVELIST $500+
Gail and James Biben
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Paulina and Laurence Kovalsky
Arnold Kovalsky Family
OppenheimerFunds/Rochester
Barbara Orenstein and Jim Present
Dr. Morris J. Shapiro
Robin and Michael Weintraub
Melanie and Jeremy Wolk

EDITOR $350+
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EXELE Information Systems, Inc.
Sharon and Mark Levine

READER $200+
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Maxine and Morton Bittker
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Lisa and Joel Elliot
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Essie Germanow
Robert and Merilyn Israel
Lenore and Marshall Lesser In Memory of Morton Zivan
Steven and Kimberly Levitsky
Ruth Messinger
Robert J. and Marcia Wishengrad Metzger
Joy and Arthur Moss
Arlene and Lee Pollan
Dr. Gerald and Maxine Rosen
Jerry Wein
Rachel Rosen and Ron Wexler In Honor of Noah Zivan’s engagement
Judy and Alan Wertheimer

SPECIAL THANKS
To the bookstore and committee volunteers, ushers, special guests, and committee members, it could not happen without you!

JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL
We extend our gratitude to the Jewish Book Council, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1943 to promote the publishing, writing and reading of quality books of Jewish interest. It is the sponsor of Jewish Book Month, the National Jewish Book Awards, and other programs and activities.

Special Appreciation to the Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation for generously supporting the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Lane Dworkin Jewish Book Festival, making it possible for us to bring special events to the community this year as we continue to celebrate Jewish literature and culture.
Special Pre-Festival Events!

Fall Cooking Celebrate the Harvest with

Sukkot Samplings! Jayne Cohen with Andrew Lederman

Presented by the JCC Women’s Committee, Chaired by Susan Halpern. Join us as we kick off our 20th Anniversary with an evening of Jewish cooking. Two Jewish chefs will educate and entertain us as we explore and taste Sukkot delicacies.

Jayne Cohen, author of “Jewish Holiday Cooking: A Food Lover’s Treasury of Classics and Improvisations” – was named a 2009 James Beard Finalist in the International Cookbook Award category. Jewish Holiday Cooking features holiday cooking information in a very accessible, easy-to-digest book. Jayne is currently a contributing editor and food blogger at Jewish Woman Magazine.

Andrew Lederman, chef at Jewish Senior Life, has over a decade of experience as a chef and restaurant owner.

Generously Underwritten by Wegmans

Wednesday, October 24, 7pm, JCC Hart Theatre, $7/$9

Rochester Jewish Film Festival presents:

A special screening of Brothers

Post film discussion moderated by Professor Michael Dobkowski.

Dan and Aaron, two Argentine brothers with opposing religious philosophies, come to a head when Aaron, a distinguished NYC attorney and a Torah scholar, has been asked to defend the right of Orthodox yeshiva students to be exempt from military service. Their story mirrors the intense struggle between Israel’s religious and political principles, and touches on what it means to be Jewish.

Generously underwritten by:
Ilana and Merwyn Kroll
Judy and Richard Rosenbaum, and the Futerman Supporting Foundation, Sara Futerman, Daphne Futerman and Ira Jevotovsky, Eli and Peggy Futerman, Rina and Danny Chessin

“Audience Favorite and Best Narrative” at the 2012 JCC Rochester Jewish Film Festival.

1994 Madeleine Kunin, Naomi Ragen
1995 Dennis Prager, Daniel Gordis, Moshe Arens, Mollie Katzen
What's the secret to being a successful entrepreneur? Randy Cohen, founder and CEO of TicketCity and author of *Ticket to the Limit*, believes it takes 10 guiding principles that apply not just at work but in everyday life. TicketCity – which buys and sells tickets to all sports, concerts and theater events and exemplifies Randy’s focus on personalized customer service – was recently voted one of the best places to work in Austin, Texas. What distinguishes this book is its fresh, invigorating and practical approach to entrepreneurship – and the personal yet dynamic stories that can teach others how to succeed.

Underwritten by
Debby and Elliott Landsman

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**Children's Program with P.J. Library**

**Multi-age Children's Program with Vivian Newman**

Explore Jewish naming traditions and celebrate the roots and origins of your unique name at a fun-filled, multi-age family book program. Join **Vivian Newman**, an award-winning Early Childhood Educator and a consultant to the **P.J Library®**, as she reads *A Song for My Sister* by **Lesley Simpson**. Enjoy a fun filled afternoon for the whole family of learning, crafts and games at this innovative program that features activities for children of every age (toddlers through 9 year olds) and every name!

**The P.J Library**

The P.J Library is brought to you by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester and the Jewish Community Center with a generous grant from the Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation.
MEN’S COMEDY NIGHT

Monday, October 29, 7pm

Open Bar, $25/$28
Moderated by: Frank Hagelberg

BEER ’n BOOKS
GENESEE VALLEY CLUB
421 East Avenue

Featuring:
Bruce Ferber

Elevating Overman
(Fulcourt Press; May 2012)
Bruce Ferber is the Emmy-nominated former head writer for Home Improvement. The humorous and sometimes painful complexities associated with second chances become the basis for Elevating Overman, a novel about Ira Overman, the veteran of multiple careers and a singularly botched marriage. As the protagonist tries to rise above the guilt, weakness and self-hatred that have been hard-wired into his soul, he discovers that a routine surgery has produced some unlikely powers and realizes he’s not the man he used to be.

David Javerbaum

The Last Testament: A Memoir by God
(Simon & Schuster; October 2012)
With an 11-time, Emmy-winning comedy writer as God’s stenographer, The Last Testament serves up a tale of courage, adversity and triumph. This ultimate celebrity autobiography takes us behind the scenes of popular biblical events and describes their true nature with unprecedented candor. David Javerbaum has teased out a wide range of perspectives on perennial issues – including love, marriage and smiting – as well contemporary issues, among them: Why is America blessed, what constitutes a good prayer and which athletes and teams are being guided to victory.

Generously underwritten by
Ames Amzalak Memorial Trust

SPECIAL EVENT DETAILS
- Business attire jacket required
- Advanced tickets required
- Open Bar before and after presentation
- For Beer ‘n Book loving women too! *

Generously underwritten by
Ames Amzalak Memorial Trust

* For Beer ‘n Book loving women too!
Perfect Is Overrated

Thursday, November 1, 6:30pm

VILLAGE GATE
274 Goodman Street

with Karen Bergreen

6:30pm Wine & Tapas
Provided by Casa Larga, Gatehouse, Dark Horse, Selena’s and Lindsay Steinberg of Green Zebra Catering Company (Kosher). With special thanks to Village Gate.

7:15pm Author Presentation
Karen Bergreen, author of Perfect Is Overrated (St. Martin Griffin; July 2012)

Nothing seemed to alleviate Kate’s post-partum depression until the mothers-you-love-to-hate in her daughter’s preschool began to turn up dead. The plot of Perfect Is Overrated may sound evil, but in the hands of Karen Bergreen, a stand-up comedian and the author of Following Polly, it’s not. Rather, she presents a lovable heroine who is temporarily lost at sea.

8pm Fashion Show
Presented by Fashion Week of Rochester’s Chantiza Stern and Meg Mundy.
Featuring styles for every woman!

Women’s clothing drive to benefit clients of Jewish Family Services. Please bring donations to the event.

$42/$45 - Author presentation, fashion show, wine & tapas, valet parking
$72/$75 - VIP Package. All of the above plus preferred seating at fashion show, autographed book ($50 tax deductible).

Generously underwritten by Mona Friedman Kolko Family Foundation

SPECIAL EVENT DETAILS
• Walk in tickets available
• Valet Parking
• Bring donations for women’s clothing drive
Children's Program

Marissa Moss

**Mira’s Diary: Lost in Paris**
(Sourcebooks; September 2012)

When a cryptic postcard arrives in the mail, Mira knows that it is time for her family to head to Paris to look for her missing mother. What she doesn’t know is that they are searching in the wrong century. In this chapter book Marissa Moss, who first sent a book to a publisher when she was 9 and gained acclaim as the author of the *Amelia Notebook* series, whirls Mira into the past. There she encounters Degas and catches a brief, shocking glimpse of her mother, who just may be a prisoner of the past.

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**bookstore**

Judaica, cookbooks, fiction, children’s books and more!

**OPEN**

October 28-November 11

Everyday
10am-4pm

Additional hours during evening events
6:30-9pm

*books provided by*

**Barnes & Noble Booksellers**

www.bn.com

*Book sales benefit the JCC.*
The Promise of Israel:
Why Its Seemingly Greatest Weakness
is Actually Its Greatest Strength
(StrengthWiley; August 2012)

Daniel Gordis has a standard response when Israel’s critics in the West insist that no country founded on a single religion or culture can stay democratic and prosperous: you’re wrong. In The Promise of Israel, he points out that Israel has defied that conventional wisdom while providing its citizens infinitely greater liberty and prosperity than anyone expected. A winner of the National Jewish Book Award, the widely read Gordis has used his platforms as the president of the Shalem Foundation, columnist for the Jerusalem Post and contributor to The New York Times to disseminate his observations about current events in Israel and Jewish thought.

20th Anniversary Celebration Event

Daniel Gordis

The Promise of Israel

Sunday, November 4, 7:30pm, JCC Auditorium, $10/13

ENJOY DINNER WITH DANIEL GORDIS
BEFORE AUTHOR PRESENTATION
5:30pm, JCC, $100 PER PERSON ($50 tax deductible).
(Tickets included for all patrons of $500 and above.)

Generously underwritten by

M&T Bank

2004 Dennis Ross, Rabbi Harold Kushner
2006 Jack Klugman, Michael Miller, Ruth Gruber Zweibel
2006 Theodore Bikel, Rabbi Harold Kushner, Dara Horn

rjbf.org • 7
Martinis & Merriment
with Delia!

Delia Ephron

The Lion Is In (Blue Rider Press; March 2012)

It’s a warm summer night and three women are on the lam: Tracee, a runaway bride and kleptomaniac; Lana, an audacious beauty and a recovering alcoholic, and Rita, the wife of a holy-roller minister who is desperate to escape her marriage and discover whether she has a mind of her own. Everything changes when their car breaks down and they meet Marcel, a lion who ultimately helps these women confront their pasts in this story of friendship, courage and love. The warmth and sparkling wit of Delia Ephron – the author, essayist, journalist, screenwriter and playwright who brought us You’ve Got Mail, The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, Hanging Up, Michael and Love, Loss, and What I Wore – is once more on display in this unforgettable novel.

Martinis served after presentation.

Generously underwritten by
Dawn and Jacques Lipson, MD., Philanthropic Fund

Wednesday, November 7, 7:30pm, JCC Auditorium, $8/$11

Dan Zevin

Dan Gets a Minivan:
Life at the Intersection of Dude and Dad
(Scribner/Simon & Schuster; May 2012)

A slice-of-midlife story told with warmth and wit, Dan Gets a Minivan provides the one thing every parent really needs: comic relief. Dan Zevin, a master of “Seinfeldian-nothingness” according to Time Magazine, isn’t quite sure how he came to be the least hip citizen of Brooklyn with a working wife, two small children, a mother who visits each week to “help” and an obese Labrador mutt. One day he got married and before he knew it, he was a stay-at-home dad with a minivan and a Costco membership. He’s navigating the best he can – with and without his GPS.

Generously underwritten by
Futerman Supporting Foundation: Sara Futerman, Daphne Futerman and Ira Jevotovsky, Eli and Peggy Futerman, Rina and Danny Chessin
Jillian Medoff

*I Couldn’t Love You More*  
(Grand Central Publishing/Hachette Book Group, May 2012)

Eliot Gordon, a 38-year-old working mother, would do anything for her family – her partner, Grant Delaney, and their three daughters. The reappearance of Finn Montgomery, Eliot’s long-lost first love, triggers a shocking chain of events culminating in a split-second decision – which child should she save? – That will haunt her beloved family forever. *Jillian Medoff*, the author of *Good Girls Gone Bad* and *Hunger Point* (which was made into a *Lifetime* movie starring Barbara Hershey and Christina Hendricks), examines the unbreakable bonds of family in her funny yet heart-wrenching novel *I Couldn’t Love You More*.

Debra Spark

*The Pretty Girl: Novella and Stories*  
(Four Way Books; April 2012)

From Victorian toy theaters, to a painting with a mysterious story behind it, to a graphic novelist’s battle with schizophrenia, the novella and six stories in *The Pretty Girl*, Debra Spark’s fourth work of fiction, revolve around artists, artistry and the magical, sometimes malicious deceptions they create. With settings that traverse New York’s Lower East Side, Victorian London, Paris and Switzerland, these stories twist and turn in mesmerizing ways as they reflect on the fictions we fabricate. Like the best magic tricks, Spark’s gritty and elusive stories captivate and seem to defy the laws of reality.

Rachel Sherman

*Living Room*  
(Grove Press, Open City Books; October 2009)

With the tone of a modern-day Jewish *Ice Storm*, Rachel Sherman’s first novel *Living Room* is a disarmingly direct portrait of a troubled family. This exploration of the ripple effects of mental illness introduces readers to Abby, a wise teenager who strives to keep her parents’ dysfunction at arm’s length; her mother Livia, a housewife with unfulfilled aspirations and an eating disorder, and her grandmother Headie, whose oncoming senility fuels vivid dreams and hallucinations. Like Sherman’s debut collection of highly acclaimed stories, *The First Hurt*, this book presents a fascinating array of experiences with unusual frankness, humor, and wisdom.
Jay Michaelson

**God vs. Gay?**
*The Religious Case for Equality* (Beacon Press; October 2011)

Does the Bible prohibit homosexuality? According to Bible scholar and activist/author Jay Michaelson, it doesn't. *God vs. Gay*, his well-researched treatise, mixes academic analysis and memoir as it explains that the vast majority of Judeo-Christian religious traditions support the full equality and dignity of LGBT people. The founder of Nehirim, the largest national provider of community programming for LGBT Jews, their partners and allies, Michaelson has written extensively about the intersections of religion, sexuality and law. A practicing Buddhist as well as a long-time student and teacher of Kabbalah, Michaelson has written several books, lived in Jerusalem and completed a 5-month silent meditation retreat. In 2009, he was included on the “Forward 50” list of the 50 most influential American Jews.

Coffee and Bagels with Erika Dreifus

**Quiet Americans** (Last Light Studios; January 2011)

Inspired by the experiences and stories of Erika Dreifus’s paternal grandparents, the eloquent stories in *Quiet Americans* explore the lives and memories of German Jews who arrived in the United States in the late 1930s as well as the impact they had on future generations. A 2012 Sophie Brody Medal Honor for “outstanding Jewish literature,” the book was also recognized as a **Notable Book by the Jewish Journal** and as a **Top Small-Press Book by Shelf Unbound**, among others. The Blue Card Fund, which assists U.S-based survivors and their families who are in need, will receive a portion of the sales proceeds.
Children’s Program

Bernard Birnbaum

The Last Space Caterpillar (Kickstarter.com 2012)

Bernard Birnbaum, a Pittsford native, has written his first children’s book, *The Last Space Caterpillar*. This book is about Nova, a space caterpillar who is on a journey to find his friends and family. During his exciting adventure, Nova discovers his purpose in the universe and learns to deal with life’s obstacles with confidence. The book targets an age range of 4 to 6 years old.

Rabbi Shais Taub

God of Our Understanding: Jewish Spirituality and Recovery from Addiction

(KTAV Publishing House; August 2010)

Rabbi Taub explores “emotional sobriety”—the art of staying happy, sane and calm when people around you are acting crazy. Is it possible to become addicted to toxic emotions and negative relationships? As a renowned expert in recovery and Jewish mysticism, as well as a mentor to many thousands of addicts, Rabbi Taub draws from his unique background using Jewish knowledge to enrich the understanding of the spiritual principles of recovery for addicts of all faiths. Join us for this discussion on how all of us can use the tools of recovery to improve our lives.

Presented in partnership with

Write On...

Use your will to support the JCC.

For information on establishing your personal legacy to benefit the JCC, please contact Tamara Cohen, associate executive director, at 585-461-2000, ext. 210 or tcohen@jcrochester.org.
### I’D LIKE TO BECOME A FESTIVAL DONOR:

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### ATTENTION DONORS $500+

- 2 tickets to each event will be mailed to you. To receive Luncheon tickets please RSVP by 10/31.

### ATTENTION DONORS $200-$499

- Tickets for “Perfect Is Overrated” and “Men’s Comedy Night” are not included and may be purchased separately.
- Please submit your ticket order by 10/15 using the form below.

Donors are asked to RSVP to Lori Harter at lharter@jccrochester.org or call 461-2000, ext. 237.

### I’D LIKE TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

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#### 20th Anniversary: Please consider an additional $20 gift to support this year’s celebration of Jewish culture and literature.

### TOTAL DUE:

#### PAYMENT FORM:

Check: □ Check enclosed made payable to JCC Jewish Book Festival

Credit Card: □ Master Card □ Visa □ Discover □ American Express

Card #: ___________________________ Exp. Date: ___________ Security Code: ___________

Authorized Signature: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________

Street Address: ___________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _______ Zip: ___________

Phone: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

Thank you!
some info about the festival

TICKET INFORMATION

Walk-In: JCC Arts Department or JCC Main Desk
By Mail: JCC Jewish Book Festival, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618
By Phone: 585-461-2000
By FAX: 585-461-0805
Online: www.rjbf.org (A small processing fee will apply.)

WALK-INS ON THE DAY OF EVENT:
Walk-in tickets may be available for purchase 1 hour prior to the event at the Festival venues. We strongly encourage you to purchase tickets in advance.
Advance tickets are required for Men’s Comedy Night.

STUDENT DISCOUNTS:
$1 off with valid student ID.

GENERAL INFORMATION

FOOD
All foods served at the JCC during the Lane Dworkin Jewish Book Festival are in strict observance of the laws of kashrut.

SEATING
Seating is general admission. VIP seating is available for Perfect Is Overrated. (see page 5)

REFUNDS
Refunds may be available for canceled or rescheduled programs only. Due to circumstances beyond our control, speakers may cancel or reschedule without prior notice.

ACCESSIBILITY
All Festival venues are handicap accessible.

QUESTIONS
For additional information please call 585-461-2000, ext. 237 or visit rjbf.org.

DONOR OPPORTUNITY AND BENEFITS

Please consider becoming a Lane Dworkin Jewish Book Festival donor!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit Level</th>
<th>Reserved Seating</th>
<th>Recognition in all Festival Literature</th>
<th>Festival Tickets</th>
<th>2 Tickets to dinner with Daniel Gordis</th>
<th>Signed Author Books</th>
<th>Underwrite an Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author $5,000+</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>2 tix to all events</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publisher $2,500+</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>2 tix to all events</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essayist $1,000+</td>
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<td>2 tix to all events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novelist $500+</td>
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<td>2 tix to all events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editor $350+</td>
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<td>2 tix to 6 events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reader $200+</td>
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<td>2 tix to 4 events</td>
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</table>
20th Anniversary
Celebrating 20 Years of Jewish Culture & Literature

Special Appreciation to the Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation for generously supporting the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Lane Dworkin Jewish Book Festival, making it possible for us to bring special events to the community this year as we continue to celebrate Jewish literature and culture.