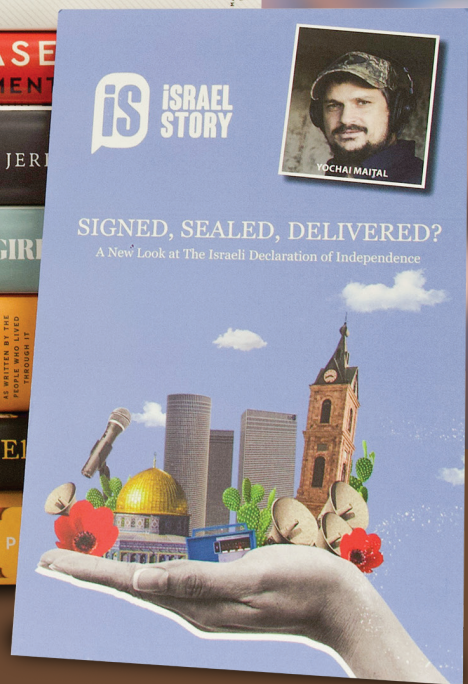
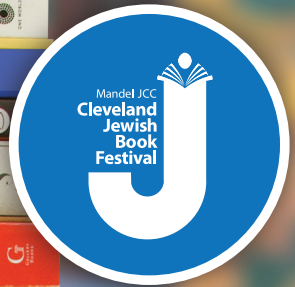


24TH ANNUAL MANDEL JCC Cleveland Jewish Book Festival 2023-2024





NOVEMBER 7 • 7:30 PM • MANDEL JCC

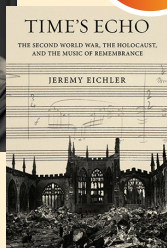
Signed, Sealed, Delivered?

Cleveland Jewish Book Festival's opening night will feature *Signed, Sealed, Delivered?*, a specially curated program developed by the award-winning podcast *Israel Story*.

Israel Story podcast tells extraordinary tales about ordinary people living in Israel. This program, created for Israel's 75th anniversary, is a live, literary, multimedia performance – part history lesson, part contemporary social commentary, all in one night. It is based on the story around Israel's original Declaration of Independence. The presentation includes interviews with the closest living relative of each of the original 37 signatories of the Declaration. The evening will include live storytelling, reading of the Declaration (*Megillat H'Atzmaut*), a hands-on interactive component, a recording of Ben Gurion's oldest grandson Yariv Ben-Eliezer and an interview with Rabbi Gold's grandson Rabbi Yaakov Katz, to reflect diverse views of Israel today.

\$18 Community
\$15 Mandel JCC Members
Student discounts available

Sponsors: The Iris Bialosky Zahler Lecture Series of the Mandel JCC and Cleveland Israel Arts Connection, a program of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland



Jeremy Eichler

TIME'S ECHO:
THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE
HOLOCAUST, AND THE MUSIC OF
REMEMBRANCE

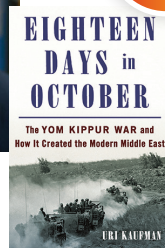
Award-winning critic and cultural historian Jeremy Eichler makes a passionate and revelatory case for the power of music as culture's memory, an art form uniquely capable of carrying forward meaning from the past. Assembling the testimony of writers, poets, philosophers, novelists, musicians and everyday citizens, *Time's Echo* proposes a new way of listening to history and learning to hear in its music the hopes, dreams and suffering of earlier generations.

About the Author

Jeremy Eichler is a music critic and cultural historian. *Time's Echo* has been singled out by the UK's Baillie Gifford Prize as one of the top 13 nonfiction books of the year. His writing has also appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*, and since 2006, he has served as chief classical music critic of *The Boston Globe*.

Temple Tifereth-Israel • 26000 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood
FREE

Sponsor: The Temple Tifereth-Israel



Uri Kaufman

EIGHTEEN DAYS IN OCTOBER:
THE YOM KIPPUR WAR AND HOW IT
CREATED THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

October 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, a conflict that shaped the modern Middle East. The War was a trauma for Israel and, following the oil embargo, a pivotal reordering of the global economic order. But Uri Kaufman argues, from the perspective of a half century, that the War can be seen as a pivotal victory for Israel. In the War's aftermath, both sides had to accept unwelcome truths: Israel could no longer take military superiority for granted – but the Arabs could no longer hope to wipe Israel off the map.

About the Author

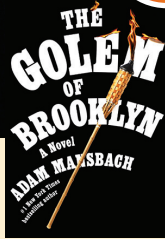
Uri Kaufman is a graduate of New York University School of Law and an award-winning real estate developer, specializing in adaptively restoring historic buildings. He has worked on this book for over 20 years, visiting the battlefields, speaking to participants and reviewing literally thousands of pages of material.

* Join the Men's Club at The J to watch together
FREE

Sponsor: Mandel JCC Men's Club



FICTION



Adam Mansbach

THE GOLEM OF BROOKLYN: A NOVEL

A hilarious, satirical and poignant reimagination of the golem, whose justice-seeking adventure takes him through modern-day bodegas, sitcoms and fast food as he and his creator wrestle with questions of existence and Jewish identity. *The Golem of Brooklyn* is a zany, clever, candid commentary on antisemitism and the dream of its eradication.

About the Author

Adam Mansbach is the author of over a dozen books, including #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Go the F*ck to Sleep*, California Book Award-winner *The End of the Jews*, his memoir in verse, *I Had a Brother Once*, and most recently, the bestselling *A Field Guide to the Jewish People*, with Dave Barry and Alan Zweibel. Mansbach wrote the award-winning screenplay for the Netflix Original *Barry*. His next feature film will be *Super High*.

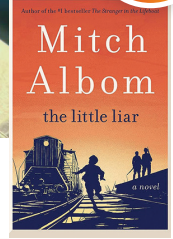
\$12 Community

\$10 Mandel JCC Members

Sponsor: June Scharf



FICTION



Mitch Albom

THE LITTLE LIAR

A moving new novel from the author of *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. Exploring honesty, survival, revenge and devotion, *The Little Liar* is a timeless story about the harm we inflict with our deceptions, and the power of love to redeem us. When the Nazis invade Salonika, Greece, eleven-year-old Nico Crispi is offered a chance to save his family. He is instructed to convince his fellow Jewish residents to board trains heading toward the east, where they are promised jobs and safety. Only after it is too late does Nico discover that the people he loved would never return.

About the Author

Mitch Albom is an internationally renowned and best-selling author, journalist, screenwriter, playwright, radio and television broadcaster and musician. His books have sold more than 40 million copies worldwide, have been published in 47 languages, and have been made into Emmy Award-winning and critically-acclaimed television movies.

Cuyahoga County Public Library – Parma Snow Branch
2121 Snow Road, Parma

\$30 includes event admission and copy of *The Little Liar*

Co-Presenter: Cuyahoga County Public Library



CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY CHAPTER BY CHAPTER

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY®

Take A Book. Share A Book.

The Mandel JCC has a Little Free Library outside our Early Childhood wing. Decorated by The J's teachers and children, this "take-one-leave-one" sharing box provides 24/7 access to books for all young readers in our community. The J's preschool children were the first to donate their favorite books.

We invite you to drop off a book and take one too. Together, we can foster caring, learning, literacy, wellness and instill a love of reading in our youngest community members.

The addition of the Little Free Library is just one way The J connects and strengthens our community. Our goal is to inspire creativity, teach imagination and provide ways for children to get immersed in storytelling so they will someday be able to make their own stories and memories one chapter at a time.



Sari Kopitnikoff

ONLY KIDDING!: MY FIRST BOOK OF JEWISH JOKES

Join us for a fun morning strengthening your funny bone with educator and author Sari Kopitnikoff. Enjoy kid-friendly joke-writing activities and a light breakfast. This event is ideal for families with children ages 3-8.

In *Only Kidding!*, this one-of-a-kind illustrated Jewish joke book for kids, you'll laugh about all things Jewish: Jewish holidays, Jewish food, Hebrew letters, Jewish celebrations, and even some holy things. (No, not socks.) The book contains 50+ original jokes, and even more silly illustrations.

About the Author

Sari Kopitnikoff is an experiential educator, digital artist and content creator. She's passionate about creating books, games, activities and shows that bring Judaism to life. For over a decade, she taught elementary through high school, and gives workshops for kids, teens and adults.

FREE

Dietary laws observed

*Community Partner: PJ Library
Support from: A Shoresch Grant, powered
by the Jewish Education Center*



NON-FICTION



Michael Oren

2048: THE REJUVENATED STATE

In *2048: The Rejuvenated State*, Ambassador Michael Oren sets out his vision for Israel in honor of Israel's 75th Independence Day 25 years in the future. Drawing on more than 40 years' experience in government, the military and foreign service, and with the perspective of a historian who has lived throughout the country and abroad, Oren identifies the most critical issues that Israelis need to discuss and proposes measures which, however difficult, are vital to Israel's fate.

About the Author

Michael Oren is an American-born Israeli historian and author, and was Israel's ambassador to the United States from 2009

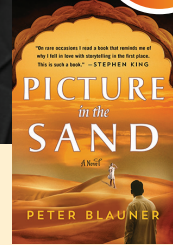
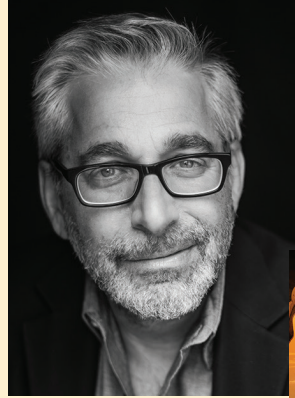
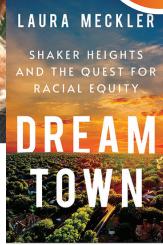
to 2013. His last three books – *Six Days of War; Power, Faith, and Fantasy*; and *Ally: My Journal Across the American-Israel Divide* – were all *New York Times* bestsellers. Throughout his illustrious career as a Middle East scholar, Oren has been a distinguished fellow at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem, a contributing editor to *The New Republic*, and a visiting professor at Harvard, Yale and Georgetown. *The Jerusalem Post* listed him as one of the world's 10 most influential Jews. Frequently interviewed by the U.S. and international press, he has appeared on the Stephen Colbert and Bill Maher shows, *60 Minutes* and *The View*. He was the Middle East analyst for CBS and CNN.

\$18 Community, \$15 Mandel JCC Members
VIP Tickets \$75 includes reception prior to the talk.

Sponsors: United Hatzalah of Israel, Myron Guren Memorial Fund and Cleveland Israel Arts Connection, a program of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland
Reception sponsors: Lisa Cynamon-Mayers, Jill Pupa, Ethan Weiss



Cleveland Native



Laura Meckler

DREAM TOWN

In this searing and intimate examination of the ideals and realities of racial integration, award-winning *Washington Post* journalist Laura Meckler tells the story of a decades-long pursuit in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and uncovers the roadblocks that have threatened progress time and again – in housing, in education and in the promise of shared community. The result is a complex and masterfully reported portrait of a place that, while never perfect, has achieved more than most and is a road map for communities that seek to do the same.

About the Author

Laura Meckler is national education writer for the *Washington Post*. She previously reported for *The Wall Street Journal*, as well as on health and social policy for the Associated Press. She got her start in Canton, Ohio, 50 miles south of her hometown of Shaker Heights, and also worked in Columbus early in her career. She was part of a team that won an award for a series on the life of George Floyd. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and sons.

FREE

Community Partner: Siegal Lifelong Learning Case Western Reserve University

Sponsor: Sharon and Joel Freimuth Memorial Fund

Peter Blauner

PICTURE IN THE SAND

Picture in the Sand is a historical suspense novel about faith, hope, terror and the movies. In 1954, a young movie fan named Ali Hassan gets a dream job working for Cecil B. DeMille on a film about the greatest of Jewish liberation stories, The Ten Commandments, in Egypt. But that dream turns into a nightmare when Ali gets caught up in real-life events of the day. He ends up in prison, but he finds salvation there in an unlikely lifesaving friendship with a Jewish filmmaker. It's a story Ali has kept secret for decades. But now, as an older successful businessman living in America, he's forced to share it with a beloved grandson who's about to make the same mistakes by going off to fight in a holy war.

About the Author

Peter Blauner is the author of nine novels, including the Edgar-winning *Slow Motion Riot* and *The New York Times* bestseller *The Intruder*. He was a journalist for *New York Magazine* and wrote for TV shows such as *Law & Order* and *Blue Bloods*.

\$12 Community

\$10 Mandel JCC Members



Marjorie Ingall

SORRY, SORRY, SORRY: THE CASE FOR GOOD APOLOGIES

Drawing on a deep well of studies in brain science, sociology, psychology, law and medicine, Ingall explains why a good apology is hard to find. Alongside a six (and a half!)-step formula for apologizing beautifully, *Sorry, Sorry, Sorry* delves into research on why good apologies are psychologically difficult; why corporations, celebrities and governments seldom apologize well; how to teach children to apologize; how to respond to a bad apology; and most of all, why good apologies are essential, powerful and restorative.

About the Author

Marjorie Ingall is the author of *Mamaleh Knows Best: What Jewish Mothers Do to Raise Creative, Empathetic, Independent Children*. A former columnist for *Tablet* and the *Forward*, she is a frequent contributor to *The New York Times Book Review* and has written for numerous outlets.

Park Synagogue • 27500 Shaker Blvd., Pepper Pike
FREE

Sponsor: The Park Synagogue Senkfor Library and The Park Synagogue Robert Leitson Family Lecture Fund



WOMEN

Allison Gilbert

LISTEN, WORLD! HOW THE INTREPID ELSIE ROBINSON BECAME AMERICA'S MOST-READ WOMAN

Told in cinematic detail, *Listen World!* is the inspiring story of a timeless maverick, capturing what it means to take a gamble on self-fulfillment and find freedom along the way. Elsie Robinson launched her nationally syndicated Listen, World! column nearly 100 years ago. She shared her points of view with over 20 million readers – blasting gender inequality, racism, antisemitism – and invited readers to “talk back” by printing their fiery letters in her pages.

About the Author

Allison Gilbert is co-author of *Listen, World!* the first biography of American writer Elsie Robinson. She is host of “Women Journalists of 9/11: Their Stories,” a 20-part documentary series recorded with the National September 11th Memorial and Museum.

FREE



NON-FICTION



HISTORICAL FICTION

IN HISTORY: UNTOLD STORIES

Christopher Gorham

THE CONFIDANTE:
THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WOMAN WHO HELPED WIN WWII AND SHAPE MODERN AMERICA

The first-ever biography of Anna Marie Rosenberg, a Jewish immigrant with only a high school education who went on to be dubbed by *Life Magazine* “the most important woman in the American government.” Her life ran parallel to the front lines of history yet her influence on 20th century America, from the New Deal to the Cold War and beyond, has never before been told.

About the Author

Christopher Gorham is a lawyer and teacher of modern American history at Westford Academy, outside Boston. He has degrees in history from Tufts University and the University of Michigan, and a J.D., summa cum laude, from Syracuse University College of Law, where he served on the editorial staff of the Syracuse Law Review. His writing has appeared in *The Washington Post* and online journals.

Linda Kass

BESSIE: A NOVEL

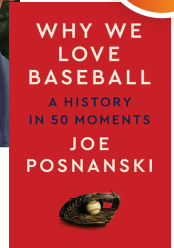
Just days after the close of World War II, Bess Myerson, the college-educated daughter of poor Russian Jewish immigrants living in the Bronx, is competing in the Miss America pageant. At stake: a \$5,000 scholarship. The tension and excitement in Atlantic City’s Warner Theatre is palpable, especially for traumatized Jews rooting for one of their own. Drawing on biographical and historical sources, *Bessie* is a tender study of a bold young woman living at a precarious moment in our cultural history.

About the Author

Linda Kass is the author of two historical novels, *Tasa’s Song* (2016) and *A Ritchie Boy* (2020). She began her career as a magazine journalist and correspondent for regional and national publications. She is the founder and owner of Gramercy Books, an independent bookstore in Columbus, Ohio.



NON-FICTION

Cleveland
Native

NON-FICTION

Dalia Feldheim

**DARE TO LEAD LIKE A GIRL:
HOW TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE IN THE
CORPORATE JUNGLE**

Dare to Lead Like a Girl is a holistic look at how to achieve purpose and joy at work. It is about turning the world of work into a place where empathy, intuition, passion and resilience take their rightful place, where women can lead like women and men can tap into their historically considered feminine leadership traits and dare to lead (more) like a girl! It's a provocative call to action to all leaders to stop wearing emotional masks at work and connect to their more feminine leadership traits like purpose, perspective, physical power, people and positivity.

About the Author

Dalia Feldheim, a Jewish-Israeli ex-Israel Defense Forces platoon commander and mother of three, spent over two decades as a senior executive creating award-winning campaigns such as Always #LikeAGirl (ranked by *Forbes* as one of the most influential campaigns of the century).

FREE

Joe Posnanski

**WHY WE LOVE BASEBALL:
A HISTORY IN 50 MOMENTS**

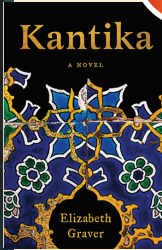
Why We Love Baseball is a love letter to baseball, a fresh and heartfelt look at the game's greatest moments and how they continue to grab at our hearts. Whether it's Willie Mays' over-the-shoulder catch, Babe Ruth's called shot, Shohei Ohtani's exploits as both a pitcher and a hitter, Josh Gibson or Sandy Koufax's perfect game, these timeless and magical moments take us to the heart of why, after almost 150 years, we love baseball, and why baseball has always drawn Jewish attention.

About the Author

Cleveland native Joe Posnanski is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of six books, including *The Baseball 100*, *Paterno* and *The Secret of Golf*, and has been named National Sportswriter of the Year by five different organizations.

\$12 Community

\$10 Mandel JCC Members



HISTORICAL
FICTION



HISTORICAL
FICTION

TWO-AUTHOR EVENT

Join us at The J for a watch party

Elizabeth Graver

KANTIKA

A kaleidoscopic portrait of one family's displacement across four countries, *Kantika* – “song” in Ladino – follows the joys and losses of Rebecca Cohen, feisty daughter of the Sephardic elite of early 20th-century Istanbul. When the Cohens lose their wealth and are forced to move to Barcelona and start anew, Rebecca fashions a life and self from what comes her way. Moving from Spain to Cuba to New York for an arranged second marriage, she faces her greatest challenge – her disabled stepdaughter, Luna, whose feistiness equals her own.

About the Author

Elizabeth Graver's fourth novel, *The End of the Point*, was long-listed for the 2013 National Book Award and selected as a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. Her other novels are *Awake*, *The Honey Thief* and *Unravelling*. Her story collection, *Have You Seen Me?*, won the 1991 Drue Heinz Literature Prize. Her work has been anthologized in *Best American Short Stories*, *Best American Essays* and *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards*. She teaches at Boston College.

FREE

Sponsor: NCJW CLE

Aaron Hamburger

HOTEL CUBA

Fleeing the chaos of World War I and the Soviet Revolution, practical, sensible Pearl Kahn and her lovestruck, impulsive younger sibling Frieda hope to reach America. But when discriminatory new immigration laws bar their entry, the young women sail instead to Havana, Cuba, convinced that there they will find a way to overcome this setback. A heartbreaking, epic family story, *Hotel Cuba* explores the profound courage of two women displaced from their home who strive to create a new future in an enticing and dangerous world far different from anything they have ever known.

About the Author

Aaron Hamburger is the author of the story collection *The View from Stalin's Head* – which won the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Rome Prize – and two novels, *Faith for Beginners* and *Nirvana Is Here*. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*; *The Washington Post*; *O, The Oprah Magazine*; and the *Forward*.



NON-FICTION



Nina Siegal

THE DIARY KEEPERS

Based on select writings from a collection of more than 2,000 Dutch diaries written during World War II, *The Diary Keepers* illuminates a part of history we haven't seen in quite this way before, from the stories of a Nazi-sympathizing police officer to a Jewish journalist who documented daily activities at a transport camp. *The Diary Keepers* mines the diaries of ordinary citizens to understand the nature of resistance, the workings of memory and the ways we reflect on, commemorate and re-envision the past.

About the Author

Journalist Nina Siegal received her MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and was a Fulbright Scholar. She has written for *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*, among other publications).

FREE

Community Partner: The Maltz Museum in conjunction with the exhibit "A Girl and Her Diary"

SPECIAL EVENTS FROM OUR PARTNERS:



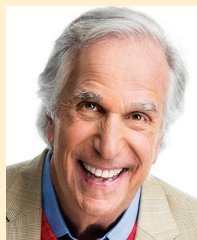
NOV 8 • 1 PM • VIRTUAL • FREE

Dani Shapiro

Join the Jewish Book Council for an interactive conversation with Dani Shapiro about the parallels between her two National Jewish Book Award-winning books, *Inheritance* and *Signal Fires*.



TO REGISTER



NOV 9 • 7:30 PM

Henry Winkler

CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY WRITERS CENTER STAGE SERIES

MILTON AND TAMAR MALTZ PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER
1855 ANSEL ROAD, CLEVELAND

After rising to fame playing the iconic character Arthur "The Fonz" Fonzarelli on TV's *Happy Days*, Henry Winkler has gone on to a prolific, award-winning career as an actor, producer, director and author. The man behind such memorable characters as Gene Cousineau on the HBO series *Barry*, will join us to discuss his new memoir, *Being Henry: The Fonz... and Beyond*.



GET TICKETS

BOOK FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

OPENING NIGHT

TUESDAY, NOV 7

**Signed, Sealed,
Delivered?**


7:30 pm

Mandel JCC

\$18 Community

\$15 Mandel JCC Members

PARTNER EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, NOV 8 

Dani Shapiro

1 pm

Free

THURSDAY, NOV 9

Henry Winkler

7:30 pm

Price varies

SUNDAY, NOV 12

Jeremy Eichler

2 pm

The Temple Tifereth-Israel

Free

MONDAY, NOV 13 

Uri Kaufman

11 am

Mandel JCC

Free

TUESDAY, NOV 14

Adam Mansbach

7:30 pm

Mandel JCC

\$12 Community

\$10 Mandel JCC Members

THURSDAY, NOV 16

Mitch Albom

7:30 pm

Cuyahoga County

Public Library/Parma

Snow Branch

\$30 includes event

admission

and copy of *The Little Liar*

SUNDAY, NOV 19

KIDS DAY

Sari Kopitnikoff

10 am

Mandel JCC

Free

KEYNOTE EVENT

MONDAY, NOV 20

Michael Oren

7:30 pm

Mandel JCC

\$18 Community

\$15 Mandel JCC Members

\$75 includes VIP reception

prior to talk

WEDNESDAY, JAN 17

Laura Meckler

7:30 pm

Mandel JCC

Free

TUESDAY, MAR 5

Peter Blauner

7:30 pm

Mandel JCC

\$12 Community

\$10 Mandel JCC Members

WEDNESDAY, MAR 6

Marjorie Ingall

7:30 pm

Park Synagogue

Free

MONDAY, MAR 11 

WOMEN IN HISTORY

Allison Gilbert

Christopher Gorham

Linda Kass

7:30 pm

Mandel JCC

Free

TUESDAY, MAR 12 

Dalia Feldheim

10 am

Free

SUNDAY, MAR 17

Joe Posnanski

11 am

Mandel JCC

\$12 Community

\$10 Mandel JCC Members

TUESDAY, MAR 19 

Elizabeth Graver

Aaron Hamburger

7:30 pm watch party

Free

WEDNESDAY, MAR 20 

Nina Siegal

1 pm

Free

Tickets

Reservations are required for all virtual events.

For in-person events, the preferred method for reservations is online. Tickets also available at the door.

For tickets and to register for free events, visit

mandeljcc.org/bookfest



Group Tickets

Discount tickets are available for groups of 10 or more. Please contact Beth Rosenthal at 216-593-6216 or broenthal@mandeljcc.org.

Book Sales

Books can be purchased from our local partner **Mac's Backs Books** in store at 1820 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, or online at macsbacks.com.



To Make a Donation

The Mandel JCC Cleveland Jewish Book Festival is made possible by donors like you. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

To make a tax-deductible donation visit support.mandeljcc.org/bookfestival.

Engaging the Community for Generations

The Mandel JCC is celebrating its 75-year anniversary. As part of its mission to build and strengthen the community, The J has showcased Jewish authors and Jewish-themed books for decades. Bringing unique ideas and perspectives to the forefront, the Cleveland Jewish Book Festival, now in its 24th year, has sparked dialogue among generations of booklovers.



Jewish Book Council of Cleveland, 1967



Second annual Jewish Book Festival sponsored by Cleveland Jewish Book Council.

Thank You to Our Sponsors*

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www.mandeljcc.org/bookfest

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Thanks to our volunteers for their hard work and dedication in making this festival a success!

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Ethan Weiss

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2023 Community

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