



28TH ANNUAL JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

October 25 - December 6

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www.jewishsgpv.org



28TH ANNUAL JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

On behalf of our Jewish Federation, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible Jewish Book Festival Committee. Your countless hours of listening to authors, reading books, and researching bring meaningful stories and fresh perspectives to our community.

Your dedication creates memorable events throughout the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys that bring us together and celebrate Jewish life and culture through the power of books.

Thank you for the time, care, vision, and passion you bring to our Jewish Book Festival.

Shelley Klein | *Chair*

Susan Hain

Sheryl Havered

Rose Kogeman

Jane Kwatcher

Barbara Levinson

Linda Mazur

Jan McFarlane

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is hard to believe that this year marks the 28th year a dedicated group of volunteers, donors, and staff have worked for over 6 months to bring our community an incredible collection of authors and events for our Annual Jewish Book Festival. Together they have helped make this program a pillar of what the Jewish Federation does to help strengthen and enhance Jewish life by bringing our community together.

We are excited to share with you this year's lineup of incredible authors who have written on a wide-range of subjects and areas of focus.

On behalf of the Jewish Federation's Board of Governors and staff, we hope you enjoy our 28th Annual Jewish Book Festival and I look forward to seeing you at this year's festival.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Moss".

Jason Moss
Executive Director

Thank you!

To our Advance Readers:

Your time, thoughtful reading, and valuable feedback helped us select an exciting lineup of authors and books for this year's Jewish Book Festival.

We couldn't have done it without you!

Veronica Andersen

Robert Knell

Carey McIntosh

Stacy Miller

Jill Switzer

28TH ANNUAL JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

October 25, 10 am
Temple Shalom of
Ontario



Jean-Yves Pitoun
The Three Partisans

October 27, 7 pm
Hillcrest Meeting
House



Annabelle Gurwitch
*The End of My Life is
Killing Me*

November 1, 10 am
Temple Beth Israel
Highland Park and
Eagle Rock



Shoshana Nambi
*Slow Down, Shoshi!
It's Shabbat in Uganda*

November 8, 4 pm
University of La Verne



Janet Bond Brill
Little Edna's War

November 14, 7 pm
Temple Beth Israel
of Pomona



Merryl Goldberg
Notes of Deception

November 15, 4 pm
Temple Ami Shalom



MZ Daskal
*The Teacher of Lost
Orphans*

November 16, 7 pm
Pasadena
Jewish Temple
and Center



Beejhy Barhany
Gursha

November 17, 7 pm
On Zoom



Christopher Gorham
The Confidante

November 29, 6:30 pm
Temple Beth David



Michael Kimmel
Playmakers

December 6, 4 pm
Temple Sinai of
Glendale



Brian Schaefer
Town & Country

For more information and
registration, visit jewishsgpv.org
or scan the QR code.



**JEWISH
FEDERATION**
OF THE GREATER SAN GABRIEL
AND POMONA VALLEYS

Most of our authors appear in conjunction with the Jewish Book Council.



We appreciate the support of our community partners who are hosting Jewish Book Festival events this year.



LITERARY CIRCLE

On behalf of our Jewish Federation and the 2026 Jewish Book Festival Committee, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Literary Circle members. Your generous support helps bring outstanding authors, compelling stories, and meaningful conversations to audiences throughout the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys.

Through your commitment to the Jewish Book Festival, you help create opportunities for our community to gather, discover new perspectives, celebrate Jewish stories, and connect through a shared love of books.

Thank you for believing in the power of literature to bring people together and for helping make our 28th Jewish Book Festival possible. We are truly grateful to have you as part of our community.

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

Fishman Family
Ellen and Harvey Knell:
In memory of Lorin Knell
Barbara Ryder Levinson

AUTHOR

Mickey and Lee Segal Family Foundation
Jack and Debby Singer
Mike Stephen:
In memory of Mira Stephen

SCHOLAR

Ruth Goldstein:
In memory of Richard Goldstein
Carole Magnus Grant
Susan and Peter Ivory

LIBRARIAN

Howard and Nikki Applebaum
Ronni and Richard Bergman
Bonnie J. Buratti and Kai Lam
Gretchen and Gary Gilbert
Lori E. Gross:
*In memory of Sadie Winkelstein
and Rhea Brenner*
Deborah Klein:
In memory of Carl and Sylvia Sugar
David Levy
Karen and Clark Linstone
Linda Mazur:
In memory of Elliott Mazur
Deborah Noble and Erich Schlecht
PJTC Sisterhood
Karen M. Rosenthal:
In memory of Lauren M. Cassatt

R. Fernando and Linda Roth:
*In memory of Ed and Ruth Jacobs
and Greg and Paulina Roth*
Louis D. Rubenstein:
In memory of Linda Rubenstein
Denise and Jim Schaefer
Gail and David Snyder:
*In memory of
Paula Forman Schiffman*
Alan and Sandy Whitman
Zeller Family:
In memory of Lynn Zeller

SCRIBE

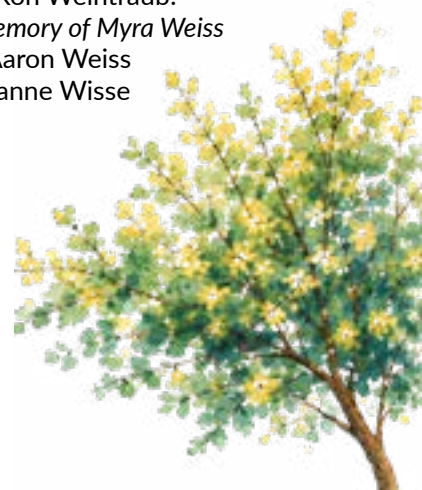
Myrna Bauman
In memory of Louis Bauman M.D.
Virginia and Ira Blitz:
In memory of our parents
Neil H. and Karen Hochman Brown
Ruth and Mike Devine
Tina and Marc Lowenthal:
*In memory of Elaine Lowenthal and
Donald Pocock*
Julie Solberg and Ted Chandler
David Weiss:
In memory of Myra Lee Weiss

READER

Oran and Julie Albrecht-Reznik:
*In memory of Hazel and
Corwin Albrecht*
Yvonne Cheney and Simon Saul:
In memory of Lynn Elliott
Norma S. Feldman
Aubrey and Nya Fine:
*In honor of our 4-legged buddies
Mystic, Amber, and Daniella*

Maureen and Grant Gelberg
Yvonne Green
Judith R. Goodstein:
In memory of David Goodstein
Susan and Phillip Hain
A. Heather E. Halperin, LCSW
In memory of Helen B. Halperin
Enid Joffe and Joel Shapiro
Bernard Karmatz and Suzette Guzman:
*In memory of Sarah and
Bernard S. Karmatz*
Kerridge Family:
*In memory of
Marjorie Blum Kerridge*
R. Klein and G. Leong:
In memory of Sue Klein
Stephen Klein
Rose and Eli Kogeman:
*In memory of Judy and
Don Karmon*
Stacy and Stuart Miller
Tyna Orren
Jan and Josh Pais
Aty Rotter
Rita and Bob Rubin:
In memory of Myra Weiss
Alfredo and Debra Sadun:
In honor of Rose Kogeman
Alice Shulman:
In memory of Gitta Noureldin
Dan Sokol and Ronna Mandel
Sheila Spiro
Rene and Steven Steinberg
Temple Sholom of Ontario Sisterhood
Marilyn and Ron Weintraub:
In memory of Myra Weiss
Valerie and Aaron Weiss
Billy and Suzanne Wisse

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED
TO SUPPORT OUR 28TH ANNUAL JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL



WELCOME TO THE 28TH ANNUAL JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

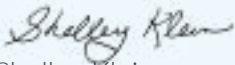
Your Jewish Book Festival Committee reviewed hundreds of recently published books to create these terrific programs for our community.

Please join our authors and:

- Learn of little-known stories of resistance and survival during and after World War II, and of a secret mission to the refuseniks of the Soviet Union.
- Discover a top aide to FDR, a Hungarian American Jewish woman, who helped shape domestic and foreign policy for many years.
- Come to know African Jewish communities and their diaspora.
- On a lighter note, learn how most founders of the American toy industry were Jewish immigrants, and how gentrification affects a small town in upstate New York.
- Laugh out loud with a woman fighting lung cancer. Really.

As always, our 28th Annual Jewish Book Festival would not be possible without the generous support of our Literary Circle. Many thanks to our new and continuing members.

We look forward to seeing you at the festival!



Shelley Klein
Chair, Jewish Book Festival Committee



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 | 10 A.M.
TEMPLE SHOLOM OF ONTARIO | BAGEL BRUNCH

JEAN-YVES PITOUN

The Three Partisans
A Novel

This is the saga of three World War II freedom fighters: an Algerian Jew who ran away from home to join the French army, an American pilot in Britain's RAF, and a French woman leading missions to smuggle Allied airmen out of occupied France. When fate forces the trio together, they become friends. Then, one of them is captured and must be rescued at all costs.

Pitoun grew up in France and holds degrees in economics and law from Sciences Po, Paris, and the Sorbonne. He attended UCLA Film School and has written and directed films in Hollywood and France. *The Three Partisans*, Pitoun's debut novel, is based on true stories from his father's experiences in the French Resistance.





TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 7 P.M.

HILLCREST MEETING HOUSE | WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION | \$25

ANNABELLE GURWITCH

The End of My Life is Killing Me

The Unexpected Joys of a Cancer Slacker

When actress and bestselling author Annabelle Gurwitch was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer, existential dread set in. She responded by declaring herself a “cancer slacker” with the motto, “No runs, no ribbons, no religion.” In *The End of My Life Is Killing Me*, her hilarious yet deeply affecting account of her struggle against the unbeatable, Gurwitch relates how she learned to celebrate tiny

victories, savor small pleasures, embrace friendships, value ordinary things, and coexist with the disease.

Gurwitch’s six books include the bestselling *I See You Made an Effort*, a Thurber Award finalist. She writes for *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and other publications.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 | 10 A.M.

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL OF HIGHLAND PARK & EAGLE ROCK

SHOSHANA NAMBI

Slow Down, Shoshi! It's Shabbat in Uganda

Shoshi has a lot to gather for her family’s Shabbat meal. When she goes with her grandfather Jajja on Friday to sell their family’s coffee beans at the market, Shoshi is in a hurry! But Jajja says it’s more important to take time to talk with friends than to be first in line. Shoshi rushes through her shopping and returns home—only to discover she’s forgotten the Shabbat candles!

Join us for storytelling and a family-friendly activity, and find out how Shoshi learns to slow down for Shabbat.

Shoshana Nambi is the first female rabbi from Uganda’s Abayudaya community. Her first children’s book, *The Very Best Sukkah: A Story from Uganda*, received a 2023 National Jewish Book Award and was a Sydney Taylor Honor Book.



**FAMILY
EVENT**



KRISTALLNACHT
MEMORIAL EVENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 4 P.M.
UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE | RECEPTION

JANET BOND BRILL

Little Edna's War

A True Story of Resistance and Hope

At seven years old, Edna Szurek and her sister were separated from their family and risked everything to smuggle food into the Warsaw Ghetto. By age 10, living undercover as a Catholic, she was the youngest member of the Polish Resistance, and at 12, she earned a medal from Pope Pius XII, who never knew he was honoring a Jewish child—but under the stress of war, even she had forgotten. Drawing

on 37 years of Edna's personal recollections and over five hours of her testimony for the USC Shoah Foundation, her daughter-in-law has reconstructed this powerful memoir in Edna's voice.

Janet Bond Brill, PhD, is a nationally acclaimed author and speaker on nutrition and heart health. *Little Edna's War* is her first historical book.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 7 P.M.

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL OF POMONA | DESSERT RECEPTION

MERRYL GOLDBERG

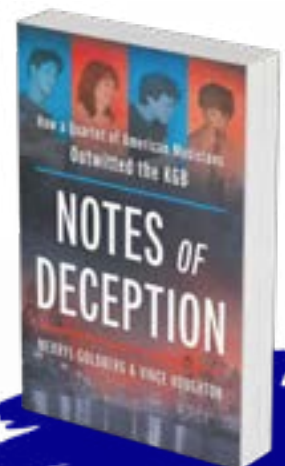
Notes of Deception

How a Quartet of American Musicians Outwitted the KGB

In 1985, the members of the New England-based Klezmer Conservatory Band landed in Moscow. With no training in espionage, they risked their freedom and their lives to smuggle information to and from Jewish refuseniks and dissident musicians trapped in the USSR. Goldberg, the band's saxophone player, devised a way to hide their messages in plain sight—in their sheet music. In *Notes of Deception*, she teams with Vince Houghton, Director of

the NSA's National Cryptologic Museum, to tell how the band accomplished this feat under the very noses of their KGB minders.

Merryl Goldberg, a professor of music at California State University, San Marcos, holds degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music and Harvard University. She toured and recorded with the Klezmer Conservatory Band for many years.





LYNN ZELLER
MEMORIAL
EVENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 4 P.M.
TEMPLE AMI SHALOM | DESSERT RECEPTION

MZ DASKAL

The Teacher of Lost Orphans
A Novel

Thousands of Jewish Holocaust survivors were interned in Europe's DP camps after the war, but some were placed in Britain's detention camps in Cyprus. Based on intensive archival research and on the experiences of Daskal's grandparents, this novel follows a young Jewish teacher who becomes a quiet anchor for orphaned children in the camps. Set against the political struggle for Jewish

emigration to Palestine, *The Teacher of Lost Orphans* explores how refugees grappled with trauma, faith, communal responsibility, and the pursuit of dignity under oppressive conditions.

Award-winning author MZ Daskal has written for *New Letters*, *Grist*, *New England Review*, and *Jabberwock Review*. *The Teacher of Lost Orphans* is her debut novel.



ETHIOPIAN
COFFEE
CEREMONY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 | 7 P.M.
PASADENA JEWISH TEMPLE AND CENTER | DESSERT RECEPTION

BEEJHY BARHANY

Gursha
Timeless Recipes for Modern Kitchens, from Ethiopia,
Israel, Harlem, and Beyond

Chef Beejhy Barhany was born in Ethiopia and fled with her family to Israel as a child. In 2014, she opened the Tsion Café in Harlem. In *Gursha*, she shares her family's journey and more than one hundred traditional and modern recipes, from *doro wot* to Queen of Sheba cake, along with the culture, holidays, and traditions of Beta Israel, the Ethiopian Jewish community.

Join us for a delicious and memorable evening including an Ethiopian coffee ceremony.

Beejhy Barhany is a chef, restaurateur, cooking teacher, and the founder of the BINA Cultural Foundation for Beta Israel in the US. *The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe* both named *Gursha* a Best Cookbook of 2025, and it was a National Jewish Book Award finalist.





TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 | 7 P.M.

VIA ZOOM

CHRISTOPHER GORHAM

The Confidante

The Untold Story of the Woman Who Helped Win WWII and Shape Modern America

Anna Rosenberg may be the most famous Jewish woman you've never heard of. Trusted by FDR and Truman, she led New Deal programs, promoted integration in defense production and the military, and helped shape the GI Bill and the Marshall Plan. Truman appointed her Assistant Secretary of Defense, and she was headline news for decades. So how has America forgotten her?

Join us for a fascinating discussion with historian Christopher Gorham, whose research brought her story to light.

Christopher Gorham is a lawyer, educator, and the acclaimed author of *Matisse at War*. *The Confidante* was a Goodreads Choice Award finalist.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 | 6:30 P.M.

TEMPLE BETH DAVID | RECEPTION

MICHAEL KIMMEL

Playmakers

The Jewish Entrepreneurs Who Created the Toy Industry in America

In 1902, Morris and Rose Michtom invented the Teddy Bear in the back room of their Brooklyn candy store, launching the Ideal Toy Corporation and joining the legion of enterprising first-generation Jewish toymakers behind Hasbro, Mattel, Lionel Trains, and other major brands. Raised in the tenements, these children of immigrants and their descendants dominated America's toy business for much of the 20th century. Kimmel shows how they

invented an imaginary world they themselves had never experienced, and how later, joined by Jewish comic book creators, children's authors, and child psychologists, they created a new, idealized vision of American childhood.

Michael Kimmel, the great-grand nephew of Morris and Rose Michtom, is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology Emeritus at Stony Brook University.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 4 P.M.

TEMPLE SINAI OF GLENDALE | DESSERT RECEPTION

BRIAN SCHAEFER

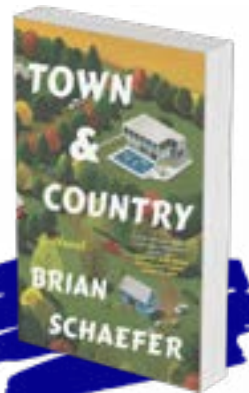
Town & Country

A Novel

A congressional race in a rural town upends relationships and challenges loyalties between locals and a growing community of second-home owners, many of whom are gay. *Town & Country* puts urban and rural America side by side and explores gentrification, gay power, the traumas of AIDS and opioid addiction, and the evolution of faith. Told from multiple points of view, it captures the agonies that follow when allegiances conflict and poses the

fundamental questions: What makes a home? What do we owe our neighbors?

Brian Schaefer has written for *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *People*, *Haaretz*, and more. He holds a master's degree in creative writing from Bar-Ilan University, Israel. *Town & Country* is his debut novel.



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Agatha Christie's

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE
BY KEN LUDWIG

DIRECTED BY
JOHN CARLTON & LORI MCKENNA

ONE TRAIN.
ONE MURDER.
EVERYONE IS A
SUSPECT.

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September 26 - October 4

Lineage Performing Arts Center
920 E. Mountain St., Pasadena, CA 91104

Tickets and information:
jewishsgpv.org/jfedplayers



A SWEET
HANUKKAH STORYTIME

Join us for a joyful morning as author
Charlotte Offsay shares *Eight Sweet Nights*,
a delicious celebration of glowing candles,
favorite foods, family traditions, and all the
little moments that make Hanukkah shine!

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 6
11 A.M.
Vroman's
Bookstore
695 E. Colorado Blvd.,
Pasadena

CRAFTS & MUSIC, TOO!

Eight Sweet Nights
A Festival of Lights
A Hanukkah Story

For more info visit: www.jewishsgpv.org

VROMAN'S
BOOKSTORE

JEWISH
FEDERATION
OF THE GREATER SAN GABRIEL
AND POMONA VALLEYS

PJ Library

EVERY PERSON HAS A NAME

25-HOUR HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

Saturday, January 23, 7 p.m.
COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

Saturday, January 23, 8 p.m. -
Sunday, January 24, 8 p.m.
READING OF THE NAMES

AT PASADENA CITY HALL &
LIVE ON YOUTUBE

If you wish to participate in reading the names of those who died during
the Holocaust, please visit www.jewishsgpv.org or call 626.445.0810.



18th FESTIVAL OF Jewish Music

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 3 P.M.
Temple Beth Israel of Pomona

LET'S COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE HANUKKAH!

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT: WWW.JEWISHSGPV.ORG

RESERVATION FORM

RSVP online at www.jewishsgpv.org/JBF
or mail this form.

For security purposes, advance reservations are encouraged for in-person events, and an RSVP is required to receive the Zoom link.

EVENT	# OF PEOPLE		TICKET PRICE	TOTAL
	IN-PERSON	ON ZOOM		
10/25 JEAN-YVES PITOUN Bagel Brunch			No charge	
10/27 ANNABELLE GURWITCH Wine & Cheese Reception			\$25 Per person	
11/1 SHOSHANA NAMBI Family Friendly event			No charge	
11/8 JANET BOND BRILL Reception			No charge	
11/14 MERRYL GOLDBERG Dessert Reception			No charge	
11/15 MZ DASKAL Dessert Reception			No charge	
11/16 BEEJHY BARHANY Dessert Reception			No charge	
11/17 CHRISTOPHER GORHAM Via Zoom			No charge	
11/29 MICHAEL KIMMEL Reception			No charge	
12/6 BRIAN SCHAEFER Dessert Reception			No charge	

I would like to help our Jewish Federation continue the work it does to strengthen and enhance Jewish life in our local community through programs like this by making a contribution.

Grand Total



SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER ONLINE

Name:

Guest(s):

Phone:

Email:

Please make checks payable to: **Jewish Federation**
or complete credit card form below and mail this form to:
Jewish Federation
114A W. Lime Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Name on credit card:

Account #:

Exp. Date: CVC:

2026 JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL VENUES

HILLCREST MEETING HOUSE
2705 Mountain View Dr., La Verne, 91750

PASADENA JEWISH TEMPLE AND CENTER
(First United Methodist Church of Pasadena)
500 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, 91101

TEMPLE AMI SHALOM
3508 E. Temple Way, West Covina, 91791

TEMPLE BETH DAVID
9677 Longden Ave., Temple City, 91780

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL OF HIGHLAND PARK AND EAGLE ROCK
5711 Monte Vista St., Highland Park, 90042

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL OF POMONA
3033 N. Towne Ave., Pomona, 91767

TEMPLE SHOLOM OF ONTARIO
963 W. 6th St., Ontario, 91762

TEMPLE SINAI OF GLENDALE
1212 N. Pacific Ave., Glendale, 91202

UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE
Ludwick Spiritual Center
1928 Bonita Ave., La Verne, 91750



28th Annual Jewish Book Festival | www.jewishsgpv.org

JEWISH COMMUNITY DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN.

It is built. Protected. Celebrated. Supported.



Help us continue building Jewish life
in the greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys.

GIVE TODAY!

www.jewishsgpv.org/give

