



THE LESSANS FAMILY
ANNUAL
BOOK
FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 5-15, 2015

Celebrating our
46th year!

jccgw.org/bookfestival

TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW!

THE LESSANS FAMILY ANNUAL BOOK FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 5-15, 2015

BOOK STORE HOURS

Daily Hours, M-F 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

One hour before and after each author program.

3 EASY WAYS TO PURCHASE TICKETS



jccgw.org/bookfestival



Box Office

Open beginning 10/7, M-F 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Open one hour prior to each author program.



301.348.3805

BOOK FESTIVAL SPONSORS

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EDITOR

Helene Weisz and Richard Lieberman

AUTHOR

Adele and Roy Igersheim
Ellen and Stuart Lessans
Helen and David Rubin
Tracey Bloom Schwartz and Alan Schwartz
Janysse and Bernie Weisz

AGENT



REVIEWER



COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR



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Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital
Gaithersburg Arts Barn

Congregation Beth El
Sisterhood of B'nai Tzedek
Karen and Bobby Epstein

COMMITTEE SUPPORTER

Joy and Herb Epstein

Represents sponsors as of 9/4/15. Sponsorship are still available! Please contact Jennifer Smith at 301.348.3778 for information about how you can sponsor an author.

We gratefully acknowledge our **Friends of the Arts**, who help make our high-quality cultural arts programs at the JCC possible with annual contributions of \$250 or more. To become a Friend of the Arts visit www.jccgw.org/donate or call Adam Tennen at 301.348.3815.

This is a program of the Gildenhorn/Speisman Center for the Arts.



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Kosher dietary laws observed. Tickets are non-refundable.

All events are held at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington unless otherwise noted.



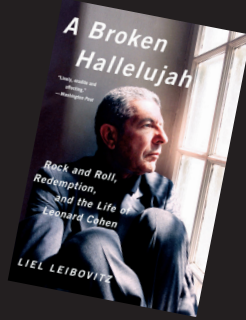
LIEL LEIBOVITZ

A Broken Hallelujah: Rock and Roll, Redemption, and the Life of Leonard Cohen

Thursday, November 5, 6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Helen and David Rubin and the Embassy of Israel

This moving portrait of an artist is a meditation on how Leonard Cohen's unique and timeless voice was formed, and how it continues to affect as the years pass. Leibovitz explores the life and influences of Cohen, the man who was too folksy for the hard rock set and too acerbic for the folk set, but whose genius overshadowed any passing musical fad.



TICKETS NOW ON SALE

AN EVENING OF ROCK 'N' ROLL

THESE PROGRAMS WILL BE HELD AT AMP BY STRATHMORE

TICKET PRICE FOR BOTH EVENTS: \$36 (Tickets are available at www.ampbystrathmore.com)

****Pike and Rose, 11810 Grand Park Avenue, North Bethesda, MD 20852****



STEVE KATZ

Blood, Sweat, and My Rock 'n' Roll Years: Is Steve Katz a Rock Star?

Thursday, November 5, 8:15 p.m.

Sponsored by Helene Weisz and Richard Lieberman



From a founding member of the legendary Blues Project and Blood, Sweat & Tears—a man who played Woodstock, had affairs with famous female folk singers, and jammed with Jimi Hendrix—comes a blues-folk-rock memoir. This is the story of a rock star as nerd, nerd as rock star, a nice Jewish boy who got to sit at the cool kids' table and score the hot chicks.



MICHELLE BRAFMAN

Washing the Dead

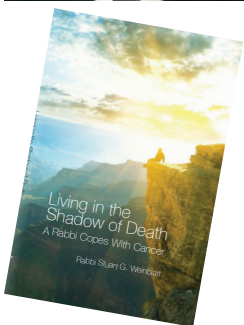
Friday, November 6, 12:00 p.m.

In this debut novel from an award-winning short-story writer, a suburban Milwaukee woman struggles to forgive her estranged mother. When the rabbi's wife unexpectedly summons her to perform the *tahara*—or ritual burial washing—for her beloved childhood mentor, she returns to the spiritual home her mother burned down. Emotionally complex and beautifully told, *Washing the Dead* is a powerful story about repairing damaged bonds between loved ones, finding community, and making peace with the past.

Ticket Price (book is included with the ticket): \$36

Light refreshments provided

Sponsored by Congregation Beth El



RABBI STUART WEINBLATT

Living in the Shadow of Death: A Rabbi Copes With Cancer

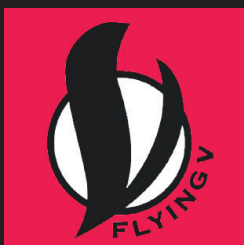
Sunday, November 8, 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt is the founding rabbi of Congregation B'nai Tzedek in Potomac, Maryland, a vibrant Conservative synagogue of 650 families. His new book chronicles his year of living with cancer. Punctuated by his sermons between Rosh Hashana 2010 and 2011, Weinblatt's narrative deftly weaves together themes of illness and uncertainty with the solace and strength he derives from his spirituality, from Jewish teachings and traditions. Mixed together with a healthy dose of humor, he creates an inspirational account of living from illness to remission.

Ticket Price: \$15

Light refreshments provided

Sponsored by The Sisterhood of B'nai Tzedek



THE BLEEDING HEART SHOW:

A COLLECTION OF NEW PLAYS INSPIRED BY INDIE ROCK

A Day of Original Theater from Flying V

Sunday, November 8, 3:00 p.m.

Renowned local theater company Flying V, recipients of the 2015 John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theater Company, bring their brand of pop culture infused Indie Theatre to the JCC with this collection of original plays, all inspired by the music of indie rock bands. Known for creating quirky, charming, and high impact original work, this afternoon will feature five brand new plays commissioned just for this event and performed for the very first time. Join us after for wine and cheese to meet this amazing cast of some of DC's most exciting actors!

Ticket Price: \$18

Sponsored by The Jewish Studio



GIL TROY

The Age of Clinton: America in the 1990s

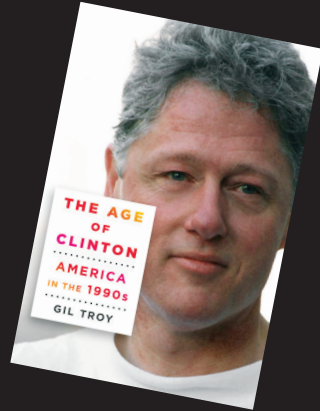
Sunday, November 8, 7:00 p.m.

Ticket Price: \$15

Light refreshments provided

Sponsored by Adele and Roy Igersheim

The 1990s was a decade of extreme change. Shifts in culture, politics, and technology radically altered the way Americans did business, expressed themselves, and thought about their role in the world. At the center of it all was Bill Clinton, the charismatic and flawed Baby Boomer president. Historian Gil Troy examines Clinton's presidency alongside the decade's cultural changes. Troy shows how the culture of the day shaped the Clintons, even as the Clintons shaped it.



SUSAN DWORKIN

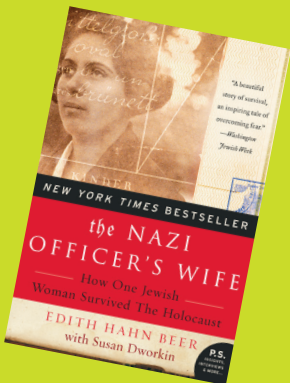
The Nazi Officer's Wife: How One Jewish Woman Survived the Holocaust

Monday, November 9, 12:00 p.m.

Ticket Price: \$15

Light refreshments provided

Sponsored by Lauren and Aaron Dworkin



Edith Hahn was an outspoken young woman studying law in Vienna when the Gestapo forced her into a ghetto and then into a slave labor camp. When she returned home she met Werner Vetter, a Nazi Party member who fell in love with her. First published in 1999, this astonishing chapter in history has spent over 20 consecutive weeks on The New York Times bestseller list.



Photo by Michael Lionstar

CHAYA DEITSCH

Here and There: Leaving Hasidism, Keeping my Family

Monday, November 9, 6:30 p.m.

Ticket Price: \$15

Light refreshments provided

This moving memoir chronicles Chaya Deitsch's struggle to shed Hasidic life while maintaining a relationship with her family. Deitsch shares her deeply personal battle between remaining loyal to herself and loyal to her family. Ultimately, Deitsch teaches us that lives lived differently do not have to be lives lived apart.



DISCOVERING THEIR VOICES: LEAVING HASIDISM

THESE PROGRAMS WILL BE HELD AT THE KENTLANDS ARTS BARN

****311 Kent Square Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878****

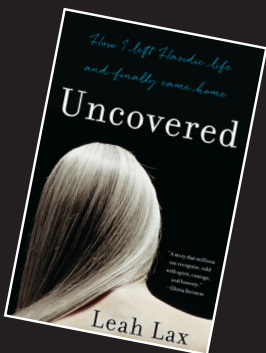
LEAH LAX

Uncovered: How I Left Hasidic Life and Finally Came Home

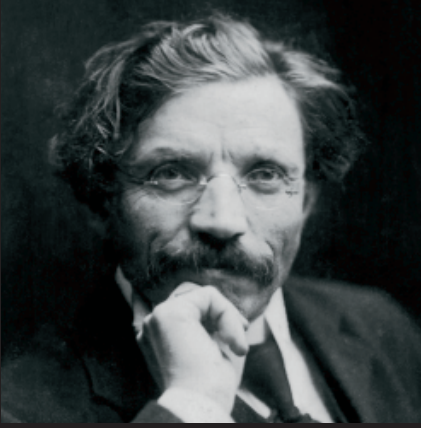
Monday, November 9, 8:15 p.m.

Ticket Price: \$15

Light refreshments provided



Leah Lax tells her compelling story, beginning as a young teen who left her liberal, secular home for life as a Hasidic Jew and ending as a forty-something woman who abandoned the only world she'd known for 30 years in order to achieve personal freedom. The first memoir to tell of a gay woman who spent years in the Hasidic fold, *Uncovered* is the moving story of Lax's journey toward a home where she truly belongs.



Get lost in the timeless stories of legendary writer, Sholem Aleichem. *Laughing in the Darkness* uncovers the world of Sholem Aleichem, his fascinating life and the inspiration behind his brilliant work.

FREE MOVIE NIGHT

Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness A film by Joseph Dorman

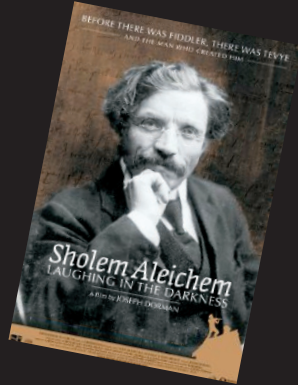
Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 p.m.

Free admission, ticket required

Light refreshments provided

Sponsored by

Tracy Bloom Schwartz and Alan Schwartz



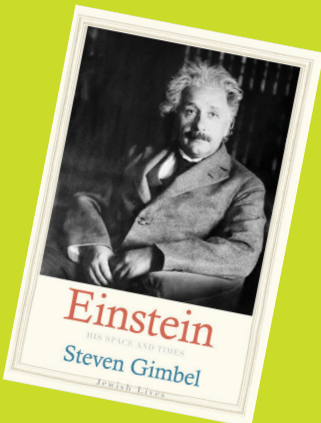
STEVE GIMBEL

Einstein: His Space and Times

Wednesday, November 11, 12:00 p.m.

Ticket Price: \$15

Light refreshments provided



Acclaimed author Steven Gimbel not only explains the science of Einstein in terms anyone can understand, but shows how his powerful ideas emerged from the particular world he occupied, and how those ideas helped shape the world we inhabit today. In this 100th anniversary year of Einstein's theory of general relativity, this fascinating book, written by an expert on Einstein's thought, opens new windows on a man who should be of interest to all of us.



DAN EPHRON

Killing a King: The Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the Remaking of Israel

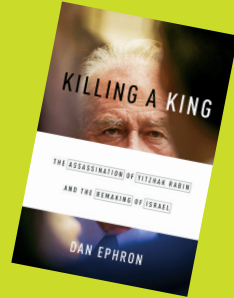
Wednesday, November 11, 6:30 p.m.

Ticket Price: \$15

Light refreshments provided

Sponsored by The Embassy of Israel

Dan Ephon has served as the Jerusalem bureau chief for Newsweek and the Daily Beast. Part history, part murder mystery, his latest work relates the parallel stories of Yitzhak Rabin and Yigal Amir over the two years leading up to the event. Rabin's assassination and the political ripples are covered with nuance and sensitivity by Ephon, who covered both the rally where Rabin was assassinated and the subsequent murder trial.



BEYOND THE HEADLINES: STORIES FROM ISRAEL

INAUGURAL HERMAN TAUBE MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Herman Taube was a writer, a poet, an advocate, and often characterized as the moral conscience of the Washington Jewish community.

DION NISSENBAUM

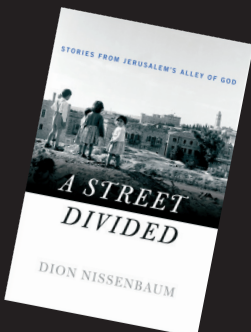
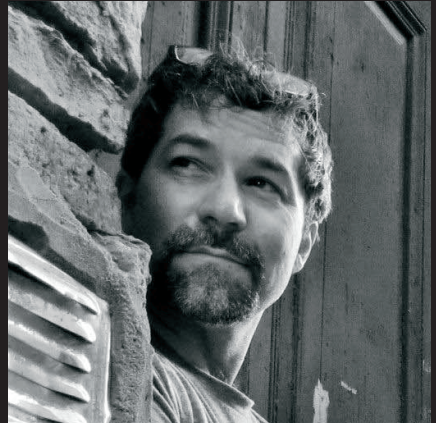
A Street Divided: Stories From Jerusalem's Alley of God

Wednesday, November 11, 8:15 p.m.

Ticket Price: \$15

Light refreshments provided

Sponsored by The Embassy of Israel



For nearly two decades, coils of barbed wire ran right down the center of what became Assael Street, marking the fissure between Israeli-controlled West Jerusalem and Jordanian-controlled East Jerusalem. In a beautiful narrative, Dion Nissenbaum, award-winning reporter for The Wall Street Journal, offers an intimate look at the Israeli and Palestinian families living on one of the most contentious pieces of land in the world.



LAURA GEHL

Hare and Tortoise Race Across Israel

Thursday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.

Free admission, ticket required

Sponsored by Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital and Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School

This sweet story celebrates kindness and friendship, even in the midst of competition. While Hare races on ahead, Tortoise takes the time to call "Shalom!" to everyone he passes, and even offers Hare some of his falafel. A familiar story, with just enough unique detail to paint a picture of contemporary Israel.



ERICA BROWN

Take Your Soul to Work: 365 Meditations on Every Day Leadership

Thursday, November 12, 1:00 p.m.

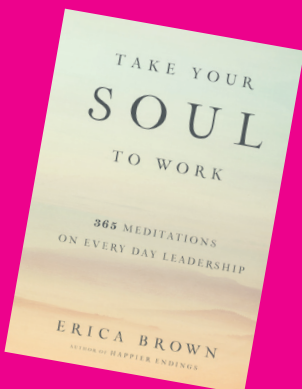
Ticket Price: \$15

Light refreshments provided

Sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington



At one thought per day for the entire year, Erica Brown offers 365 meditations to anchor and enrich corporate titans and non-profit visionaries. *Take Your Soul to Work* provides spiritual nourishment and encourages leaders to steer their organizations with honesty, faith, grace, and courage.



• • • • • Special Veterans Day Program • • • • •



LEE MANDEL

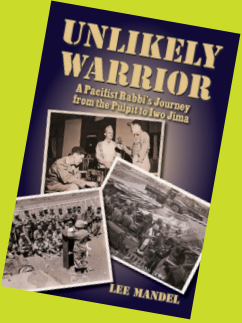
Unlikely Warrior: A Pacifist Rabbi's Journey from the Pulpit to Iwo Jima

Thursday, November 12, 6:30 p.m.

Mandel, a physician and retired Navy captain, probes the fascinating life of Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn, a brilliant student, orator, debater, outspoken social activist and frequent lecturer on political topics during the 1930s. Despite his passionate support of pacifism, Gittelsohn voluntarily joined the Navy when the United States entered World War II, becoming the first Jewish chaplain assigned to the United States Marine Corps. Mandel's research provides an unprecedented look at how the U.S. Navy molded clergymen of all religions into a highly-effective support force for America's fighting forces.

Light refreshments provided

Ticket Price: \$15 (Free for U.S. Veterans)



• • • • • Special Veterans Day Program • • • • •



US AIR FORCE BAND

Thursday, November 12, 8:15 p.m.

The United States Air Force Brass Quintet is the Air Force's premier brass ensemble, comprised of members of the USAF Band Concert Band. This organization performs a wide variety of music ranging from traditional brass quintet literature, transcriptions and new music to light classics and patriotic and popular favorites. This concert will feature a tribute to Veterans and celebrate America with patriotic selections.

Free admission, ticket required

Light refreshments provided



Photo by Larry O'Connor

10TH ANNUAL BOOK CLUB BRUNCH MARY MORRIS

The Jazz Palace

Friday, November 13, 10:30 a.m.

Our annual brunch will transport you to Jazz Age Chicago. Critically acclaimed novelist Mary Morris has crafted a true tour-de-force, the most important novel of her career. It is a tale of family, race, gangsters, disaster, love, betrayal and, of course, jazz.

Ticket Price (book and a seated brunch are included with the ticket): \$40



MARCUS J. FREED

The Kabbalah Sutras: 49 Steps to Enlightenment

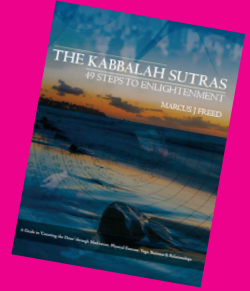
Sunday, November 15, 10:00 a.m.

In *The Kabbalah Sutras*, Marcus J. Freed presents a system which infuses ancient Kabbalistic wisdom with modern physical meditation in a way that you can apply directly to your everyday life. This book contains 49 practical lessons that can be applied through meditation, yoga and exercise.

Join us for an interactive meditative yoga workshop led by Marcus J. Freed. This introductory workshop will be suitable for all ages and all ranges of physical ability.

Ticket Price: \$15

Light refreshments provided



LISA MOSES LEFF

The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust

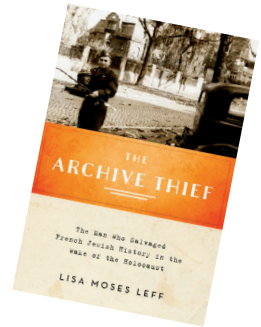
Sunday, November 15, 12:00 p.m.

In the aftermath of the Holocaust, Jewish historian Zosa Szajkowski stole tens of thousands of archival documents related to French Jewish history from public archives and collections in France and moved them, illicitly, to New York. In *The Archive Thief*, Associate Professor of History at American University Lisa Moses Leff reconstructs Szajkowski's gripping story in all its ambiguity.

Ticket Price: \$15

Light refreshments provided

Photo by Dana Rose Lee



LAURA DAVE

Eight Hundred Grapes

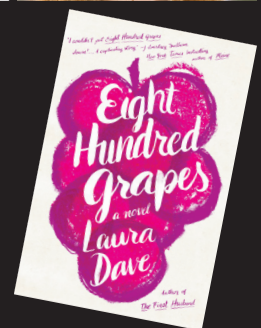
Sunday, November 15, 5:00 p.m.

There are secrets you share, and secrets you hide. In *Eight Hundred Grapes*, bestselling author Laura Dave reveals the secrets behind love, marriage and family in this breakout novel set in the gorgeous California wine country. Join us after the program for a wine tasting and light refreshments.

Ticket Price (book is included with the ticket): \$36

Sponsored by Janyse and Bernie Weisz

Photo by Allen Murabrayashi



THE LESSANS FAMILY ANNUAL BOOK FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 5-15

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