

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ATTENTION: BOOKS, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS

Koffler Centre of the Arts Announces the Winners of the 22nd Annual Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards

TORONTO, April 27, 2010 – A novel about a Jewish immigrant adjusting to life in a 19th century Newfoundland outpost community has won this year's Fiction prize at the **Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards**.

The Winterhouse by **Robin McGrath** is one of eight winners of the 22nd annual awards. The panel of judges chose from a wide variety of submissions from books published in 2009 with significant Jewish content by Canadian authors in categories including Fiction, History, and Youth Literature. The winners will be recognized at an awards evening in Toronto on **Thursday, May 27**.

Other winners include **Allan Levine**'s chronicle of the history of Manitoba's Jewish community, *Coming of Age: A History of the Jewish People of Manitoba*, in the History category. *Save The Deli*, **David Sax**'s ode to the Jewish delicatessen, has won in the Biography and Memoir category.

Canadian crime writer **Howard Engel** will be honoured with a **Special Achievement Award** for his long and distinguished writing career and contribution to the field. Engel is best known for his mystery series featuring the internationally recognized Jewish Canadian detective Benny Cooperman who has been featured in 12 novels. Benny Cooperman's soft-boiled approach to crime fighting reflects his Canadian and Jewish roots and has inspired mystery writers all over the world.

"The Koffler Centre of the Arts is thrilled to present the Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards which celebrate the very best in Canadian Jewish literature," says **Lori Starr**, Executive Director, Koffler Centre of the Arts and Vice President for Culture, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. "The number of submissions and the quality of work this year was outstanding, and made the award process particularly challenging for our dedicated jury."

"The award-winning books, by authors from every part of Canada, reflect the impact Jewish culture has had on all aspects of Canadian society," adds writer **Edward Trapunski**, who chaired the distinguished judging panel that includes writers, academics, editors and experts in the literary field. This year's jury members are **Beatrice Fischer, Adam Fuerstenberg, Marjorie Gann, Judith Ghert, Alain Goldschläger, Cynthia Good, Sara Horowitz, Dorothy Shoichet, Judy Stoffman, and Judy Wolfe**.

The Awards will be presented by the Koffler Centre of the Arts at a special ceremony in Toronto on **Thursday, May 27 at 8 PM** at the **AI Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Avenue (at Bloor)**. This FREE event is open to the public and all are welcome.

Full details on the event and all the winners are available at www.kofflerarts.org

The 2010 winners are:

FICTION

Robin McGrath, *The Winterhouse*

Published by Creative Book Publishing

HISTORY

Allan Levine, *Coming of Age: A History of the Jewish People of Manitoba*

Published by Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada and Heartland Associates

HOLOCAUST LITERATURE

Michael R. Marrus, *Some Measure of Justice: The Holocaust Era Restitution Campaign of the 1990s*

Published by University of Wisconsin Press

YOUTH LITERATURE

Eva Wiseman, *Puppet*

Published by Tundra Books

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

David Sax, *Save the Deli*

Published by McClelland & Stewart

JEWISH THOUGHT & CULTURE

Kenneth Sherman, *What the Furies Bring*

Published by Porcupine's Quill

SCHOLARSHIP ON A JEWISH SUBJECT

Jeffrey Veidlinger, *Jewish Public Culture in the Late Russian Empire*

Published by Indiana University Press

YIDDISH

Goldie Sigal, *Stingy Buzi and King Solomon*

Published by Lomir Hofn Press

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Howard Engel

Support for the Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards is provided by the **Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto**. The **AI Green Theatre** is a Venue Partner for the awards ceremony.

Jury list and biographies, and author biographies are posted on the Koffler website at www.kofflerarts.org

About the Koffler Centre of the Arts

Koffler Centre of the Arts is a Jewish cultural institution with a broad mandate to serve all, and present a wide range of artistic programs through a global lens in a specifically Canadian context. The Koffler's mission is to bring people together through arts and culture to create a more civil and global society. Its unique mix examines the arts across different disciplines and cultures in a way that strengthens identity while encouraging an appreciation of difference. Headquartered just north of Sheppard Avenue at 4588 Bathurst Street in the brand new Prosserman JCC, the Koffler Centre of the Arts features: the Koffler Gallery with changing contemporary exhibitions (currently programming off-site); visual art exhibitions, student exhibitions and more; fully-equipped studios for ceramics, painting and drawing, dance, and music rehearsals; and a variety of other programmatic spaces. The 2010-2011 season includes major visual arts exhibitions, artist talks, lectures, film, music, dance, comedy, and literary performances often presented in partnership with other arts organizations. The Koffler presents the annual Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards and the Jewish Book Fair as part of its growing literary repertoire along with over 65 classes for all ages as part of the Koffler Schools of Dance, Visual Arts, and Music. Koffler Centre of the Arts is an affiliate of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Planning is underway on a brand new 40,000 square foot, architecturally innovative Koffler Centre of the Arts on the Sherman Campus, anticipated to open in 2014. In July 2009, the Koffler's administrative offices and all classes opened in the Prosserman JCC on the Sherman Campus. More information at <http://tomorrowcampaign.com>

Koffler Centre of the Arts gratefully acknowledges the support of its patrons and members, Cultural Season Sponsor **CIBC Wood Gundy**, Art Aficionado Sponsors **Trinity Development Group** and **Weirfoulds LLP**, and the **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto**.

KOFFLER ON THE ROAD!

Watch for Koffler programs off-site around Toronto! As we prepare for our new facility to be completed, the Koffler Centre of the Arts is continuing to program exhibitions, events and performances both at our current facilities and at

various downtown sites in Toronto. Check our website for details and watch out for Koffler events in ***your*** neighbourhood!

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For photos and additional information

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