

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
ATTENTION: BOOKS, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS

## **Authors David Grossman, Anna Porter and Tarek Fatah to headline the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto Jewish Book Fair, October 23 to 31, 2010**

**Toronto, Ontario, June 24, 2010** – Award-winning Israeli author and peace activist **David Grossman** will open the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual **Toronto Jewish Book Fair**, October 23 to 31, 2010.

One of Israel's greatest writers and author of *The Zig Zag Kid* and *The Yellow Wind*, David Grossman brings his new bestselling novel about the costs of war, *To The End of the Land*, to this year's Fair. Grossman, the first of this year's distinguished roster of speakers, will present the opening night lecture on Saturday, October 23 at 8 PM.

Joining Grossman at this year's Fair is award-winning author **Anna Porter**, who will discuss her new book *The Ghosts of Europe*. One of Canada's most distinguished writers, Hungarian-born Porter returns to her European roots where she finds disquieting signs of old hatreds and racial tensions.

The brilliant American writer and author of the global bestseller *Wealth and Poverty*, **George Gilder** will speak on his new book *The Israel Test*, where he makes the case for Israel as the crucial battlefield for capitalism and freedom in our time.

Political activist, writer and broadcaster **Tarek Fatah** will speak on his provocative new book *The Jew is not my Enemy: Unveiling the Myths that Fuel Muslim Anti-Semitism*. Fatah, one of the founders of the Muslim Canadian Congress, argues in his new book that anti-Semitism in the Muslim world contradicts the essence of the Islamic spirit, and offers suggestions to eliminate the agonizing friction between Jewish and Muslim communities.

Also at this year's Fair, **Harold Troper**, Canadian writer, historian, academic, and author of *The Defining Decade*, will describe what it meant to be a Canadian Jew and a Jewish Canadian in the 1960s.

"Now in its 34<sup>th</sup> year, the Toronto Jewish Book Fair is an institution in this city, and each year brings people together with books and writers to explore contemporary Jewish life, big ideas, politics, and current affairs," states **Lori Starr**, Executive Director, Koffler Centre of the Arts and Vice President for Culture, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. "We are truly grateful to the over 100 dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly each year on this signature community event," adds Starr.

The Toronto Jewish Book Fair, established in **1976**, is one of the largest Jewish Book Fairs in North America. Each year, over **5,000** people enthusiastically attend the week-long event featuring sales of a wide range of books of Jewish interest, over 25 international and Canadian authors, film screenings, panel discussions, musical events, workshops, and children's events. The Toronto Jewish Book Fair is presented by the **Koffler Centre of the Arts**.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto Jewish Book Fair, bigger and better than ever, returns from **October 23 to October 31, 2010**, at **Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue**, 55 Yeomans Road, Toronto. Admission to the Fair is free and open to the public.

Full event details and a list of participating authors will be posted soon at [www.kofflerarts.org](http://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 2010-11 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 Toronto 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 agency of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Planning is underway on a brand new, 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 acknowledges the support of its patrons and members, Cultural Season Sponsor **CIBC Wood Gundy** and the **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto**. The Koffler Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support the City of Toronto through the **Toronto Arts Council**, the **Ontario Arts Council** and the **Canada Council for the Arts**.

### **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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