

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Centre of the Arts presents the 33rd Annual Jewish Book Fair, October 24 to November 1, 2009

Toronto, Ontario, September 22, 2009 – Koffler Centre of the Arts presents the **Jewish Book Fair** from **October 24 to November 1, 2009**. One of the largest of its kind in North America, the Jewish Book Fair celebrates its **33rd year** with a wide range of literary events including international and local authors, talks, books, panel discussions, workshops, and events for all ages.

Over twenty-five authors are featured at this year's Fair, including **Noah Alper, Michael Wex, Dr. Seymour Epstein, David G. Roskies, Nava Semel, Fred Kaufman, and Amos Oz**. **David Sax**, author of *Save the Deli*, also speaks at a special off-site Book Fair preview on **Thursday, October 22, 5:30 PM** at **Caplanski's Deli, 356 College Street**.

The Jewish Book Fair takes place in the brand new Conference Centre of the recently renovated **Lipa Green Centre for Jewish Community Services, 4600 Bathurst Street**. The Jewish Book Fair is the first major community event in the new Centre.

The Fair kicks-off on **October 24 at 8 PM** with Opening Night feature *Taibele and Her Demon*, a captivating musical, spoken word, and visual interpretation of a story written by Nobel Prize-winning author **Isaac Bashevis Singer**. Performed by Toronto's top klezmer and jazz musicians, original compositions by **Lorie Wolf** meld together the age-old art of storytelling with the creative influences of klezmer, world and jazz music.

Also this year, the Jewish Book Fair presents talks by **Lily Poritz Miller**, author of *In a Pale Blue Light*; **Nava Semel**, author of the internationally acclaimed book *And the Rat Laughed*; **Marc H. Stevens**, author of *Escape, Evasion and Revenge*; **Rabbi Erwin Schild**, author of *And Miles to Go Before I Sleep*; **Rosanne Bernard**, author of *Knittishisms: The Zen of Jewish Knitting*; **Kathy Kacer** and **Sharon McKay**, co-authors of *Whispers from the Camps*; and a special *New Jewish Fiction and Poetry* reading and discussion with **Lauren Kirshner**, Canadian Jewish Book Award winner **Cary Fagan**, **Sidura Ludwig**, and Trillium Prize-shortlisted author **Adam Sol**.

New for 2009, the Fair features three Koffler Art Workshops: a cooking workshop with *The Organic Kosher Cookbook* author **Aviva Allen**; *Writing Your Jewish Family Stories and Memoirs* with **Lil Blume**; and *Off the Page and Into the Frying Pan* with celebrity chef **Howard Dubrovsky**.

Featured children's programs include readings by and hands-on activities with **Karen Fisman**, author of *An Adventure in Latkaland*; and **Kathy Clark**, author of the true Holocaust-era story, *Guardian Angel House*.

The Jewish Book Fair presents *Teaching the Holocaust Through Art*, an educator's workshop presented in conjunction with Holocaust Education Week (November 1 – 11, 2009) and the North American premiere of the Israeli Opera *And the Rat Laughed*. Presenters include author **Nava Semel**; **Ella Milch-Sheriff**, librettist for the opera; and **Einat Aronstein**, soprano and originator of lead operatic role. For more details on Holocaust Education Week: www.holocausteducationweek.com

The Jewish Book Fair started in **1976** and is one of the largest Jewish Book Fairs in North America. Each year, approximately **10,000** people take in the week long event. This year's Fair features over **25 authors** and participants.

For full event details and list of programs, please go to www.kofflerarts.org

The 33rd Annual Jewish Book Fair runs from **October 24 to November 1, 2009**, at the **Lipa Green Centre for Jewish Community Services, 4600 Bathurst Street**. Admission to the Fair is FREE. Tickets for all evening events are available online through **TicketWeb**, www.ticketweb.ca or by calling **1-888-222-6608**. Tickets for all events can also be purchased on site at the Jewish Book Fair, starting on **Saturday, October 24, 7:30 PM**.

Indigo Books & Music is the exclusive bookseller of the 33rd Annual Jewish Book Fair.

Sponsors for this year's Fair include **Adath Israel Congregation, Beth Tikvah Synagogue, B'nai Brith Canada, Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University, Canadian Jewish Congress, the Canadian Jewish News, Committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation, Congregation Beth Haminyan, Friends of Yiddish, the Haifa Foundation, McClelland and Stewart, Na'amat Canada, Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, New Israel Fund of Canada, Opera York, Penguin Books Canada, Royal Canadian Legion (General Wingate Branch 256), Shockett Yiddish Teachers Training Fund, Victor and Renee Topper, United Jewish People's Order/Winchevsky Centre, the United States Consulate General in Toronto, and Workmens Circle/Arbeiter Ring.**

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.**

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's Donald Gales Family Pavilion, 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 2009-2010 season includes major visual arts exhibitions, artist talks, lectures, film, music, dance, 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. In July 2009, the Koffler's administrative offices and all classes opened in the Donald Gales Family Pavilion of the Prosserman JCC on the Sherman Campus. More information at <http://tomorrowcampaign.com>

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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