

**James A. Diamond** is the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Chair of Jewish Studies at the University of Waterloo. He is the author of *Maimonides and the Hermeneutics of Concealment: Deciphering Scripture and Midrash in The Guide of the Perplexed*.

**Tina Grimberg** grew up in the Ukrainian city of Kiev and moved to North America with her family when she was sixteen. She developed a keen interest in Judaism and became involved in the American-Jewish community after settling in Indianapolis. Though her first career was in family therapy, her love of her Jewish heritage called her to pursue rabbinical studies at the Reform Movement's Hebrew Union College, from which she graduated in 2001. Following her rabbinic work at Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn, Rabbi Grimberg moved to Toronto, and since 2002 she has served as rabbi for Congregation Darchei Noam, the city's Reconstructionist synagogue. In all her professional endeavors, Tina has been able to help others through her unique storytelling abilities, which allow the listener and reader to make sense of the past, and dream about the future. Rabbi Grimberg lives in Toronto with her husband, Moshe, and their son, David. is Rabbi Grimberg's first published book of collected stories.

**John Miller's** first novel, *The Featherbed*, received stellar reviews and earned a devoted readership upon its release in 2002. Besides novels, Miller has written on culture and politics, and in his spare time he provides consulting services to local and international non-profit organizations and governments. He lives in Toronto.

"... resounds with a unique and authentic voice, filled with the resonance of the Jewish immigrant community in 1930s Toronto ... *A Sharp Intake of Breath* is a heartwarming and potent piece of fiction. Miller has created a world that is welcoming, intriguing, heartfelt, and genuine."

— *Quill and Quire*, January 2007

**Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett** is University Professor and Professor of Performance Studies at New York University. She considers the collaboration with her father on this exhibition and companion book a blessing and singular highlight of her career. Her other books include *Image before My Eyes: A Photographic History of Jewish Life in Poland, 1864–1939* (with Lucjan Dobroszycki); *Destination Culture: Tourism, Museums, and Heritage*; and *The Art of Being Jewish in Modern Times* (edited with Jonathan Karp). *Awakening Lives: Autobiographies of Jewish Youth in Poland before the Holocaust*, to which she contributed, coincides with the period of Mayer's youth in Poland. Her edited volume *Writing a Modern Jewish History: Essays in Honor of Salo W. Baron* recently won a National Jewish Book Award. She is currently leading the core exhibition development team for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto. She is the recipient of many honors, including resident fellowships at the Getty Research Institute and Hebrew

University and the Guggenheim fellowship. She and her husband, [Max Gimblett](#), an artist, live and work on New York's Lower East Side.

**Mayer Kirshenblatt** is a self-taught artist living and working in Toronto. Born in Apt (Opatów in Polish) in 1916, he arrived in Canada in 1934 at the age of seventeen, having completed the seven grades of Polish public school and *kheyder*. After apprenticing to an electrician and cobbler in Poland and working in a sweatshop in Toronto, he painted houses and eventually opened his own wallpaper and paint store. He retired early, after a serious illness. While he was trying to occupy himself by refinishing furniture, collecting clocks, and sailing his boat, his family pleaded with him to paint life in the Old Country. Finally, in 1990, at the age of 73, he began to paint everything he could remember about his hometown and his childhood, lest people know more about how Jews died than how they lived. He has created more than 270 paintings. Each painting tells a story and together they make a world. Mayer has exhibited his work in several solo as well as group exhibitions at The Jewish Museum (New York), at the Aird Gallery, Koffler Gallery, and Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, and in a traveling exhibition organized by the Smithsonian Institution. [Shtetl](#), a video documentary about his work, premiered in 1995.

**Marc Miller** is a visiting assistant professor at Emory University, Atlanta

**Ruth Panofsky** was born and raised in Montreal and currently lives in Toronto. She has published two books of poetry, *Lifeline* (2001) and *Laike and Nahum: A Poem in Two Voices* (2007). She has also published several scholarly books, including *The Force of Vocation: The Literary Career Adele Wiseman* and *The Selected Letters of Margaret Laurence and Adele Wiseman*. Ruth Panofsky holds a PhD from York University and is professor of English at Ryerson University, where she specializes in Canadian Literature and Culture.

**Anna Porter** received her BA and MA in English Literature from the University of Canterbury, in Christchurch, before a trip to Europe led to proofreading job with Cassell's in England. This first foray into the world of publishing was followed by a sales position with Collier Macmillan, and an eventual transfer to Canada to assume an editorial role in Toronto. Porter joined McClelland & Stewart in 1969 as editorial coordinator. A series of rapid promotions followed, culminating with her becoming the president and publisher of Seal Books, a mass-market paperback publishing house co-founded by M&S and Bantam Books. Porter left Seal in 1979 to found Key Porter Books—a joint venture with Key Publishers, the then-publisher of *Toronto Life* and *Quill & Quire*. Key Porter became known internationally for its high-quality non-fiction and illustrated books and for its mainstream books of national interest. In recognition of her varied achievements in the world of publishing, and specifically for being “instrumental in bringing Canadian titles to the attention of the international market place,” Porter was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1992. In 2003, she was awarded the Order of

Ontario. She has also been awarded Honorary Doctoral degrees from Ryerson University, St. Mary's University, the University of Toronto, and the Law Society of Upper Canada. Porter has written three crime novels—*Hidden Agenda*, *Mortal Sins* and *The Bookfair Murders*—and a biography of her grandfather titled *The Storyteller*. When it was first published, *The Storyteller* won the 2001 Canadian Authors Association/Birks Family Foundation Award for Biography, which recognizes “excellence in the writing of Canadian biography.” It was re-issued in a paperback edition in October 2006 by Douglas & McIntyre to honour the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution, which Porter witnessed firsthand as a young girl. Anna Porter’s latest book, *Kasztner’s Train*, was shortlisted for the Charles Taylor Prize for literary non-fiction in 2008, and was the winner of the 2007 Nereus Writers’ Trust of Canada Non-Fiction Prize. She is a member of several professional associations and boards, including the Advisory Board of Schulich School of Business, the Empire Company Ltd., the Soulpepper Theatre Company Advisory Council, the Interval House Capital Campaign Committee, World Wildlife Fund Canada, PEN Canada, and the York University Board of Governors.

Born in 1926 in Lodz, Poland, **Henia Reinhartz** endured the Nazi occupation in the Lodz Ghetto, and then survived Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. Following the war, she lived briefly in Belgium and then moved to Paris where she graduated as a professionally trained Yiddish and Hebrew teacher and where she met her husband, Nochem. Henia immigrated to Canada in 1951 and initially lived in Montreal. She married Nochem in 1952 and soon after moved to Toronto. Henia and her husband have two children, Adele and Avrom.