

**JEWISH
BOOK
WEEK**

**1-9 MARCH
2025**

LONDON | ONLINE
Tickets on sale: 9 Jan

**JEWISH
LITERARY
FOUNDATION**

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Kings Place

Welcome to Jewish Book Week 2025



In times of political and emotional upheaval, books and ideas remind us of the importance of listening to one another. Jewish Book Week is a celebration of creativity, conversation, and discovery – a place where we come together to share stories that enlighten, challenge, and inspire. As antisemitism surges globally, we confront difficult questions, asking how we can protect artistic freedom in turbulent times.

This year, the Jewish Literary Foundation brings you a festival spanning the breadth of Jewish experience, from the brilliance of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks to the tragic events of 7 October. We look at how the arts thrive amid cultural boycotts, delve into comedy with *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, and savour the role food plays in building connections.

From bestselling authors to emerging voices, we explore art, faith, football, history, music, poetry, politics, science, and so much more. We even have our first event around a colouring book, created especially for our 74th festival! Alongside our main programme, a vibrant free fringe and free online series with international speakers offers something for everyone.

At this year's festival, we honour the timeless power of books and ideas to bridge divides and celebrate the richness of our culture. Thank you for joining us and for being part of this essential conversation.

Claudia Rubenstein
Director

Festival information

Our in-person events are held at
Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG

Our online events are all free to attend on Zoom.

Links will be sent to ticket holders following registration.

KINGS PLACE – TICKETS AND BOOKING INFORMATION

Book at www.kingsplace.co.uk/jbw or call
Box Office 020 7520 1140 Mon-Fri, 12.30pm – 5pm

You will receive your tickets three days prior to the event start date, via email.

If you have booked for multiple events, you will receive tickets for each individual event separately.

Tickets purchased at the box office can be printed physically at the time of booking.

Transaction Fee and Building Levy Fee

A transaction fee of 12.5% will be applied to your booking, up to a maximum charge of £6. This fee is to cover our Box Office administrative costs so that Kings Place Music Foundation can continue to support its artists, programme, learning and participation work. A £1 Building Levy is applied to each booking, the proceeds of which go towards maintaining and improving Kings Place performance spaces and facilities.

Fees do not apply to purchases made in person at the Box Office. Kings Place Friends are exempt from all booking fees.

Refunds/Resales

All tickets for events at Kings Place are non-refundable/exchangeable.

If a performance is sold out, we will accept tickets for resale, and in the event of resale, you will receive a Kings Place gift voucher that will be valid for any ticketing purchase for two years. A per ticket fee will be applied for resales.

If, due to unforeseen circumstances, a performance is cancelled or abandoned when less than half the performance has taken place a refund (booking fee excluded) will be provided.

HOW TO FIND US

Train/tube: 8 min walk from
Kings Cross St Pancras station

Buses: 390, 10, 17, 30, 45, 46, 59, 63,
73, 91, 205, 214, 259 and 476

Parking: Available at St Pancras
International station, with blue
badge parking in marked bays on
Crinan Street

CONCESSIONS & DISCOUNTS

£5 tickets are available for audience members aged under 30. Concessions are available for audience members on income support. For concessions contact info@jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk.

A **15% discount** is available when booking tickets for three or more events in one transaction.

STAY UP TO DATE

For full, up-to-date event details visit our website
www.jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk

**£5 tickets available
for under 30s**

SECURITY

Your safety is a priority for the Jewish Literary Foundation and Kings Place. Please arrive at least 45 minutes before your event to allow time to pass through security.

Bag policy: All bags brought to the venue will be subject to checks by security personnel. You will be permitted to take one cabin sized bag (40 x 20 x 25cm) or smaller into the venue. If your bag is larger than this or you have multiple bags, we advise you to check it in to luggage storage at Kings Cross station. There is no facility to store large bags at the venue.



**90 events
in-person
& online**



Arts in the Age of Boycotts

**Mahan Esfahani | Danny Driver | Gemma Rosefield
Ed Vaizey | Chair: Mark Lawson**

In May 2024, an Amsterdam concert hall cancelled performances by the Jerusalem Quartet, igniting a global debate on artistic freedom and cultural boycotts. Pianist **Danny Driver** and harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani** led a petition protesting this decision; for our opening night event they join cellist **Gemma Rosefield** to perform. This will be followed by a panel discussion chaired by **Mark Lawson**, featuring Mahan, Danny and former Culture Minister **Lord Vaizey**. Together, they will reflect on the mounting challenges facing artists and institutions and explore how to protect creativity and expression in uncertain times.

7.45–9.30pm Tickets from £20

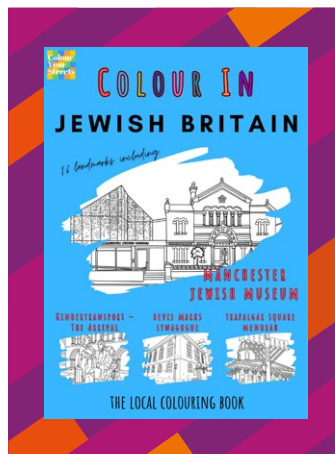
Emma Barnett & Jeremy Weil: Jewish Britain in Colour

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

Something special for opening night: the launch of *Colour In...Jewish Britain*, an exciting addition to **Emma Barnett** and **Jeremy Weil**'s local colouring book range, *Colour Your Streets*. Created especially in time for our 74th festival, this wonderful colouring book celebrates the country's Jewish communities, inviting people of all ages to come together to colour in landmarks they love and sights they have yet to discover.

BBC *Today* presenter Emma Barnett and her husband Jeremy Weil's highly popular series now covers over 150 cities, towns and neighbourhoods. Join them for a joyous discussion about Jewish places, identity, the importance of home, and why we love seeing where we live celebrated in a colouring book.

7.45–8.45pm Tickets £16

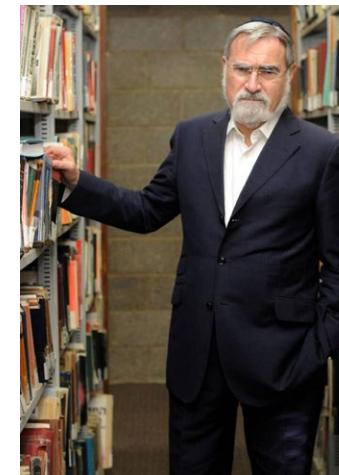
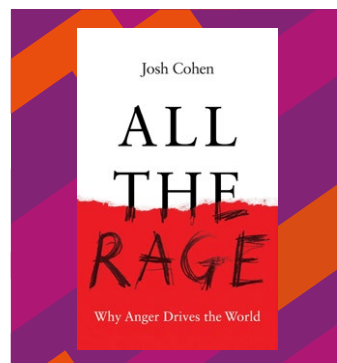


All The Rage

Josh Cohen | Chair: Devorah Baum

Anger permeates our lives, from the intensity of road rage to the fervour of political protest, manifesting physically and sometimes erupting into violence. How should we understand this powerful emotion—and can it ever serve a constructive purpose? In *All the Rage*, psychoanalyst **Josh Cohen** argues that anger is not an emotion to suppress but a fundamental force shaping both our personal relationships and the wider world. Drawing on patient case studies, neuropsychology, literature, philosophy, and recent political events, Cohen explores the many facets of anger and its role in our lives.

7.45–8.45pm Tickets £10



The Home of the Book for the People of the Book

In Partnership with the National Library of Israel

**Joanna Benarroch | Michael Laitner
Raphael Zarum | Chair: Daniel Taub**

In 2014, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks set out his vision for the renewed National Library of Israel, expressing the exceptional connection of the Jewish people to the written word; their contribution to civilisation. Former Israeli ambassador to the UK **Daniel Taub** chairs a discussion on how this continues to resonate throughout the world of scholarship and education, and how future generations can write their own chapter. Daniel is joined by **Joanna Benarroch** and Rabbi **Michael Laitner** of the Rabbi Sacks Legacy, and Rabbi Dr **Raphael Zarum**, Dean of LSJS, and holder of the Rabbi Sacks Chair of Modern Jewish Thought.

11am–12pm Tickets £22

Richard J. Evans: Hitler's People

Chair: Clare Mulley

Why did so many Germans take part in Nazi crimes? How did they come to support Hitler and follow him almost to the very end? Renowned historian **Richard J. Evans** strips away the veneer of legend from the faces of the Third Reich, using a mass of recently unearthed new evidence to present a more realistic view of Nazi perpetrators as human beings who were disturbingly like us. The former Regius Professor of History at Cambridge, author of Wolfson-winner *Death in Hamburg* and *The Pursuit of Power*, returns to Jewish Book Week with his latest *Sunday Times* bestseller.

11am–12pm Tickets £16



Genesis Emerging Writers

In partnership with the Genesis Foundation

Chair: Karen Skinazi

The fourth edition of the Emerging Writers Programme, in partnership with the Genesis Foundation, culminates in this popular panel event. This year's talented cohort includes **Alison Green**, **Megan McKeown**, **Marianne Paget**, **Hannah Silver** and **Lucy Thynne** (fiction); **Sabine Casparie**, **Aleph Ross** and **Sam** (non-fiction); **Timothy Fox** and **Charlotte Salkind** (poetry). They are mentored by Adam Lebor, Ali Shaw, Daisy Buchanan, Nicholas Royle, and Sanjida (fiction); Lily Dunn, Robin Ince, and Clare Mulley (non-fiction); and Tamar Yoseloff and Jacqueline Saphra (poetry). From first-time graphic novelists to poets experimenting with new forms, their diverse works explore art, history, thrillers, and historical fiction. Chaired by Emerging Writers alumnus **Karen Skinazi**.

11am–12pm Tickets free





The Promised Land? Authors in Israel Post 7 October

Sponsored by the Jerusalem Foundation

Yossi Klein Halevi | Amir Tibon | Ayelet Tsabari
Chair: Julia Fermentto-Tzaisler

How has Israeli identity, life and literature been shaped by the seismic events of 7 October and their aftermath? Jerusalem International Writers Festival artistic director **Julia Fermentto-Tzaisler** leads a thought-provoking conversation about resilience, creativity and the enduring power of words with three outstanding Israeli writers: journalist **Amir Tibon**, whose *The Gates of Gaza* is the story of his family's rescue from Kibbutz Nahal Oz on the day of the attacks; award-winning essayist and novelist **Ayelet Tsabari**; and renowned author and journalist **Yossi Klein Halevi**.

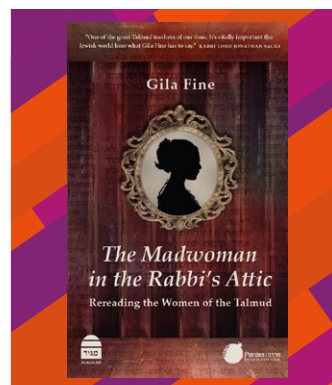
12.30–1.30pm Tickets £22

The Prosecutor

Jack Fairweather | Chair: Philip Rubenstein

Against a nation determined to bury its Nazi past, Fritz Bauer fought for justice. A gay German-Jewish lawyer, he secretly tipped off Mossad as to the whereabouts of Adolf Eichmann. More remarkably, he fought Germany's legal establishment in his determination to put those responsible for Auschwitz on trial. **Jack Fairweather**, Costa-prize winning author of *The Volunteer*, tells the extraordinary true story, drawing on unpublished papers, newly declassified records, and exclusive interviews.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets £16



The Madwoman in the Rabbi's Attic

Gila Fine | Chair: Shoshana Boyd Gelfand

Women in the Talmud are usually marginal and almost always anonymous. **Gila Fine**—called “one of the great Talmud teachers of our time” by Lord Sacks—explores the six exceptions: Yalta (the shrew), Homa (the femme fatale), Marta (the prima donna), Heruta (the madonna/whore), Beruria (the over-reacher), and Ima Shalom (the angel in the house). While their epithets suggest anti-feminist archetypes, careful re-reading reveals more to their stories than initially meets the eye. Gila Fine, lecturer of rabbinic literature at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, discusses the Talmud's profound moral teachings with Rabbi **Shoshana Boyd Gelfand**.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets £10



Food for Good

Karan Gokani | Karen Mattison | Sarit Packer
Chair: Jonathan Freedland

Food has the power to bring us together, to nourish not just our bodies but our communities. In conversation with **Jonathan Freedland**, three culinary pioneers share their insights on how food builds connections and drives positive change. Cook for Good CEO **Karen Mattison** joins with *Soup for Good*, blending recipes from Nigella Lawson and Gordon Brown with the story of the Kings Cross social enterprise. Former Ottolenghi chef **Sarit Packer**, co-founder of Honey & Co, talks about creating spaces where food and people thrive together. **Karan Gokani**, founder of Hoppers and author of *Hoppers: The Cookbook*, reflects on how food fosters community and belonging. A celebration of food, friendship, and its extraordinary ability to transform lives.

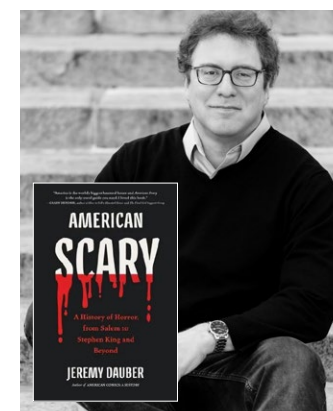
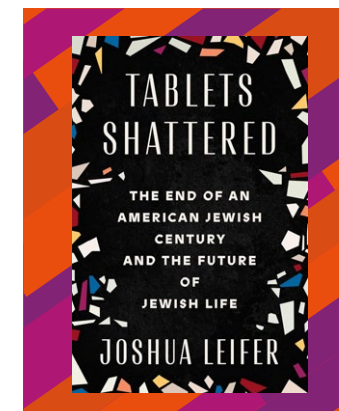
2–3pm Tickets £22

Tablets Shattered

Joshua Leifer | Chair: Adam Taub

By 2050, it is predicted that most of the world's Jews will live in a sovereign Jewish state, marking a dramatic shift after two millennia of life in the diaspora. Against this backdrop, journalist **Joshua Leifer** argues, the pillars of American Jewish identity—Americanism, Zionism, and liberalism—are crumbling. From progressive anti-Zionists seeking to disentangle Judaism from nationalism, to right-wing Israeli thinkers envisioning a Jewish future without American Jewry, Leifer explores the fractures and transformations reshaping Jewish life. Join Joshua Leifer and **Adam Taub** for a thought-provoking discussion on *Tablets Shattered: The End of an American Jewish Century and the Future of Jewish Life*.

2–3pm Tickets £16

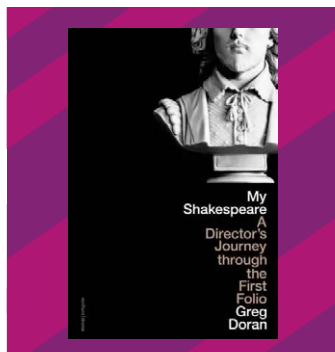


American Horror Stories

Jeremy Dauber | Chair: Tanya Gold

From campfire tales to true crime headlines, horror holds a powerful grip on American literature, cinema, and, by extension, Western culture. In *American Scary: A History of Horror from Salem to Stephen King and Beyond*, **Jeremy Dauber** traces the genre's evolution—from its chilling origins to the present day. Iconic figures such as Edgar Allan Poe, Shirley Jackson, and Alfred Hitchcock take centre stage, alongside unexpected contributors such as Elia Kazan and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Columbia professor and acclaimed author of *Jewish Comedy: A Serious History, American Comics*, and *Mel Brooks: Disobedient Jew*, Dauber makes a rare UK appearance to discuss his work with journalist **Tanya Gold**.

2–3pm Tickets £10



Gregory Doran: My Shakespeare

Sir **Gregory Doran** reflects on his extraordinary journey through the works of the Bard, having directed or produced all 36 plays in Shakespeare's First Folio. Beginning his career with the Royal Shakespeare Company as an actor in 1987, Doran later served as Artistic Director from 2012 to 2022. In *My Shakespeare*, he shares illuminating insights into each play, from introducing Falstaff to China to how an encounter with Nelson Mandela inspired his *Julius Caesar*. With stories of collaborations with David Tennant, Judi Dench, Janet Suzman, and his late husband Antony Sher, Doran offers a deeply personal portrait of theatrical mastery.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £22

Art & Motherhood

Hettie Judah | Chair: **Bidisha**

Art that explores the raw, unfiltered realities of motherhood—beyond the idealised Madonna and Child archetype—has been rare, long considered taboo. But now, it's the focus of urgent discussion. Coinciding with her nationally acclaimed exhibition *Acts of Creation*, curator **Hettie Judah** delves into the myths, mess, and mishaps of motherhood through 150 thought-provoking artworks. Returning to Jewish Book Week, the *Lapidarium* author examines how visual culture has shaped ideas about motherhood and how later female artists, from Barbara Hepworth to Jenny Saville, have challenged and reclaimed the narrative. A compelling exploration of art and the evolving story of motherhood.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £16

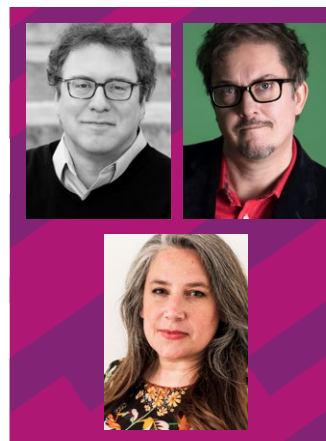


Agent Zo

Clare Mulley

Elzbieta Zawacka was the only woman selected for the WW2 Polish special forces unit known as 'The Silent Unseen'. After training in the British countryside, she was parachuted back behind enemy lines where—whilst being hunted by the Gestapo, who arrested her entire family—she took a leading role in the Warsaw Uprising and the liberation of Poland. Yet the post-war Communist regime imprisoned her and ensured the remarkable story of Agent Zo remained hidden for over 40 years. Now, for the first time, it can be told by **Clare Mulley**, award-winning author of *The Spy Who Loved* and *The Woman Who Saved The Children*.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £10



Curb Your Enthusiasm: Good for the Jews?

Sponsored by The Kyte Charitable Trust

Jeremy Dauber | **Joel Morris** | Chair: **Viv Groskop**

With its razor-sharp wit and boundary-pushing humour, *Curb Your Enthusiasm* has become a cultural phenomenon. But how does Larry David's masterpiece reflect Jewish identity, challenge stereotypes, and resonate—or not—with audiences worldwide? Comedian and broadcaster **Viv Groskop** is joined by *Paddington* and *Philomena Cunk* writer **Joel Morris**, author of *Be Funny or Die: How Comedy Works and Why It Matters*, and **Jeremy Dauber**, Columbia professor, Mel Brooks biographer and author of *Jewish Comedy: A Serious History*, for a joyous yet thought-provoking exploration of one of television's most daring shows.

5–6pm Tickets £22

Susan Neiman in Conversation with Mary Fulbrook

In association with Jewish Women's Voices, Oxford Centre for Life Writing

Susan Neiman | Chair: **Mary Fulbrook**

What is it like to be an American Jew living in modern Germany? Philosopher and writer **Susan Neiman** brings four decades of experience to this compelling discussion with UCL Professor of German History **Mary Fulbrook**. Offering unique personal and historical insights, Neiman vividly recounts life in Germany before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. A former academic at Yale and Tel Aviv University, she is the author of *Learning from the Germans: Race and the Memory of Evil* and currently serves as director of the Einstein Forum in Berlin.

5–6pm Tickets £16



Uncovered: Women's Sexuality & Jewish Law

Nechama Goldman Barash | Chair: **Sally Berkovic**

Rabbanit **Nechama Goldman Barash** joins *Under My Hat* author **Sally Berkovic** to discuss her nuanced perspective on the issues that have shaped women's roles, religious identity, and ritual obligations across millennia. A teacher of contemporary halakhah and Talmud at Matan, Midreshet Torah V'Avodah, and the Pardes Institute, Goldman Barash guides us through the rich tapestry of Jewish legal sources and historical contexts. Drawing from her book *Uncovered*, she examines the Jewish woman's place within the diverse and dynamic mosaic of faith and practice.

5–6pm Tickets £10



Writing Israel: Yossi Klein Halevi & Jonathan Freedland

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

For decades, **Yossi Klein Halevi** and **Jonathan Freedland**, both prominent journalists and authors, have explored Israel's complex story with nuance and insight. Now, they come together to discuss the challenges and opportunities of writing about the country today. Halevi's *Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist* recounts his journey from being a follower of Meir Kahane to rejecting Jewish radicalism, while his New York Times bestseller *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* offers a heartfelt attempt to bridge divides. Freedland, an Orwell Prize-winning journalist, has written about Israel for over 30 years, notably for *The Guardian*. A vital conversation on Israel's past, present, and future.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £22

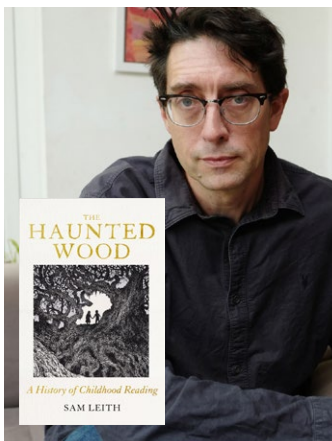
The Haunted Wood: A History of Childhood Reading

In association with the TLS

Sam Leith | Chair: **Toby Lichtig**

Do you remember the first time you fell in love with a book? The stories we encounter in childhood shape us profoundly, offering glimpses of the past—both personal and collective—while inspiring dreams of new futures. In his groundbreaking exploration of the children's literary canon, **Sam Leith** journeys from Aesop's ancient fables through the Brothers Grimm, the golden ages of Victorian and Edwardian tales, and beloved 20th-century classics by Judith Kerr and Dr. Seuss. *The Spectator* literary editor joins TLS fiction editor **Toby Lichtig** to celebrate the enduring magic of books and their power to console and inspire across generations.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £16



Jewish Country Houses

Sponsored by Ruth & Martin Dunitz

Juliet Carey | **Abigail Green**

Join Oxford Professor **Abigail Green** and Waddesdon Manor's Senior Curator **Juliet Carey** to explore the Jewish country house across Europe. Country houses have long stood as powerful symbols of national identity, conjuring images of the opulent world of the landowning aristocracy. Yet, the Jewish country house tells a more nuanced tale of prejudice, assimilation, and resilience. Some were centres of lavish entertaining, while others inspired the European avant-garde. Today, a few estates are celebrated as museums, while many remain hidden gems, bearing silent witness to dreams shattered by the Shoah.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £10



Bearing Witness: Documenting 7 October & its Aftermath

In Partnership with the National Library of Israel

S. Ilan Troen | Chair: **Raquel Ukeles**

The National Library of Israel's Bearing Witness Archive is an ambitious initiative documenting the events of 7 October, 2023, and the war that followed, capturing the unprecedented scale of instant messaging, online coverage, vigils, rallies, and memorials. In conversation with **Raquel Ukeles**, NLI Head of Collections, renowned historian **Ilan Troen** explores the challenges and ethical considerations of building this essential archive, preserving these materials for future generations and creating a reliable, accessible resource that offers unparalleled insights into a pivotal moment in contemporary history.

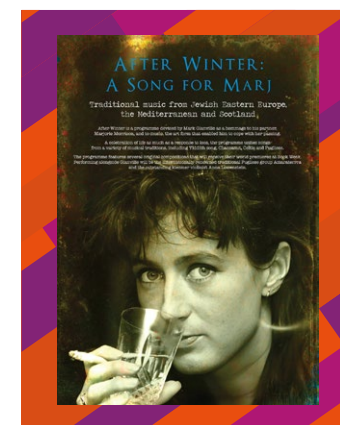
8–9pm Tickets £22

After Winter: A Song for Marj

Mark Glanville | **Amaraterra**
Violinist: **Anna Lowenstein**

Singer **Mark Glanville** returns to Kings Place with an homage to his late partner Marjorie Morrison—and to music, the art form that enabled him to cope with her passing. A celebration of life as much as a response to loss, *After Winter* unites songs from a variety of musical traditions including Yiddish, Chazanut, Celtic and Pugliese. The programme features several original compositions receiving their world premieres at Jewish Book Week. Performing alongside Glanville will be the internationally renowned traditional Pugliese group **Amaraterra** and the outstanding klezmer violinist **Anna Lowenstein**.

8–9.15pm Tickets £20



Roosevelt & the Jews

In association with Jewish Renaissance

Andrew Porwancher | Chair: **Aviva Dautch**

Theodore Roosevelt, a scion of the Protestant elite, was an unexpected champion of the impoverished immigrants who crowded the docks at Ellis Island. From an early age, he formed a bond with the Jewish community that had never been witnessed before in a US president, rallying for sweatshop reform and citing the heroism of the Maccabee warriors. In *American Maccabee*, Professor **Andrew Porwancher**, author of *The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton*, traces the 26th President's deep connection and complex relationship with Jews, as persecution in Eastern Europe saw a wave of refugees flee to American shores.

8–9pm Tickets £10

Book your free Fringe ticket at kingsplace.co.uk/jbw



Express Your Shelf!

To celebrate their beautiful new home in Jerusalem, the National Library of Israel invited renowned international personalities to share their personal bookshelves in a series of captivating short films. Stop by to watch and explore the shelves of Sir Simon Schama, Esther Perel, Edmund de Waal, Regina Spektor, and more!

11am–3pm Tickets free



How to Get Published

In memory of Robin Hyman

Stephanie Thwaites | Larry Finlay | Miriam Farbey

Join **Larry Finlay**, former Managing Director of Transworld, **Miriam Farbey**, Publisher at Scholastic Children's Books, and Curtis Brown Literary Agent **Stephanie Thwaites**, founder of the Jewish Publishing Circle, for an interactive session offering expert insights into the publishing world. Gain invaluable tips, strategies, and industry secrets to help bring your book to life.

2–3pm Tickets free



The Rabbi Sacks Archive at the National Library of Israel: Workshop

In partnership with the National Library of Israel

The National Library of Israel has the honour and cherished responsibility to catalogue and preserve Rabbi Sacks' archive—making it accessible to people from around the world for generations to come. NLI Archivist **Rachel Misrati**, in conversation with **Joanna Benarroch**, Global Chief Executive, Rabbi Sacks Legacy, will give insights into how she has approached this undertaking and a preliminary glimpse of some of the treasures she has discovered.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets free



The Centre Must Hold

In partnership with Lockdown University

Yair Zivan | Chair: Carly Maisel

In an era of complex global challenges, extremism and populism may offer the public simple but ultimately dangerous solutions. **Yair Zivan**, a longtime adviser to Yair Lapid—Israel's opposition leader and former prime minister—proposes a different path: centrism. Zivan argues that centrism is the key to overcoming polarisation and a proven strategy for effective leadership. As editor of *The Centre Must Hold*, he has gathered insights from leaders including Tony Blair, Kathryn Murdoch, and Michael Bloomberg. In conversation with **Carly Maisel**, global CEO of The Kirsh Foundation.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets free

Language City

In partnership with Lockdown University

Ross Perlin | Chair: Samantha Ellis

Over the next century, half of the 7,000-plus human languages are predicted to disappear forever. In his fight to preserve them, **Ross Perlin** heads to the most linguistically diverse, immigration-shaped city in history: contemporary New York. Winner of the 2024 British Academy Book Prize, *Language City* follows six remarkable yet ordinary speakers of endangered languages deep into their communities, learning how they are maintaining their mother tongues against overwhelming odds. A joyful and illuminating exploration of a city and the world that made it.

2–3pm Tickets free



LOVE JEWISH BOOK WEEK?

Leave the gift of great Jewish conversations, by remembering us in your will.

As a charity that relies on donations, it's only due to the unfailing support of people like you that we have been able to run continuously for over 70 years. Please help our work continue by making a gift to the Jewish Literary Foundation in your will.

For further information, please email **Claudia Rubenstein** at info@jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk



War & Morality

In partnership with Lockdown University

Shlomo Brody | Chair: **Shlomo Levin**

What does it mean to fight an ethical war? Rabbi Dr **Shlomo Brody** explores this essential question as Israel defends itself on the battlefield and in the court of public opinion. In *Ethics of our Fighters* he presents, for the first time, a holistic Jewish perspective on military ethics. What does Judaism say about the bombing of Dresden, the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, or how to push the British out of the land of Israel? The National Jewish Book Award winning author of *A Guide to the Complex* looks at a century of political dilemmas and moral debates, in conversation with Rabbi **Shlomo Levin**.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets free

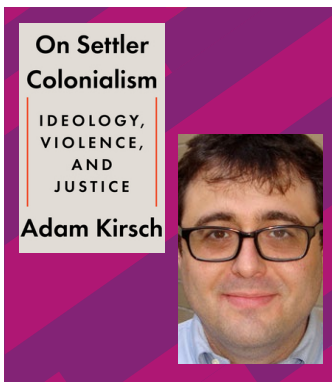
Ideology, Violence & Justice

In partnership with Lockdown University

Adam Kirsch | Chair: **Adam Taub**

Since 7 October, the term *settler colonialism* has moved from academic and activist circles into mainstream conversation. Some progressives now use it to justify Hamas' attacks, arguing that Israel, created on land taken from an indigenous population, can never be legitimate. In *On Settler Colonialism*, poet and literary critic **Adam Kirsch** expands on his October 2023 *Wall Street Journal* article to examine this political ideology, which, he claims, aims to delegitimise not only Israel but also countries such as the United States, Canada, and Australia.

8–9pm Tickets free



101 Treasures from the National Library of Israel

In partnership with the National Library of Israel and Lockdown University

Raquel Ukeles

To mark the opening of its new home in Jerusalem, the National Library of Israel has published a magnificent volume showcasing its most extraordinary treasures. From Maimonides' autograph to Sultan Suleiman's poetry and Isaac Newton's theological musings, these items span centuries and continents, offering a fascinating glimpse into Jewish and global heritage. Head of Collections **Raquel Ukeles** shares insights into the curatorial process and the challenges of preserving these rare works for future generations. An unmissable chance to explore the stories behind these priceless artefacts and the people who created them.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets free

The Many Lives of Anne Frank

In partnership with Lockdown University

Ruth Franklin

This groundbreaking new biography explores Anne Frank's transformation from an ordinary teenager into an enduring icon, whose diary—translated into over 70 languages—remains the most widely read literary work to emerge from the Holocaust. Award-winning author **Ruth Franklin**, known for *A Thousand Darknecesses* and *Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life*, joins us to discuss her contribution to Yale's Jewish Lives series. Comprehensive yet innovative, her biography aims to write alongside Anne rather than over her, restoring Anne's humanity and agency in all their messiness, heroism, and complexity.

2–3pm Tickets free

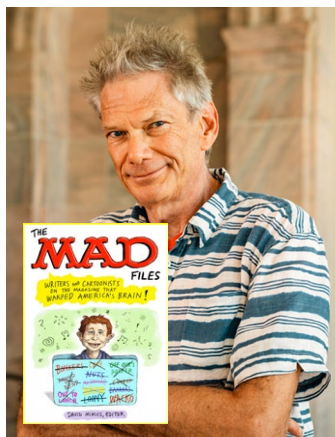


NEW Friday Tours and Talks

On Friday 7 March join us for tours of London cultural highlights with leading experts.

Spaces for each event are very limited, so find out more and book your place at kingsplace.co.uk/jbw





MAD Magazine: Warping America's Brain!

In partnership with Lockdown University

David Mikics | Chair: Liel Leibovitz

Before *The Simpsons*, SNL and social media memes, there was *MAD*. Launched by Harvey Kurtzman in 1952, it gleefully thumbed its nose at all the postwar pieties, unfazed by lawsuits or FBI ire. *The MAD Files* features essays on the most subversive magazine ever to be sold on US newsstands, with contributors including Adam Gopnik, Roz Chast and Art Spiegelman, who writes "I couldn't learn much about America from my refugee immigrant parents—but I learned all about it from *MAD*." Editor **David Mikics** joins **Liel Leibovitz**, whose *High Holy MAD* essay delves into the Jewishness behind its hugely influential humour.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets free

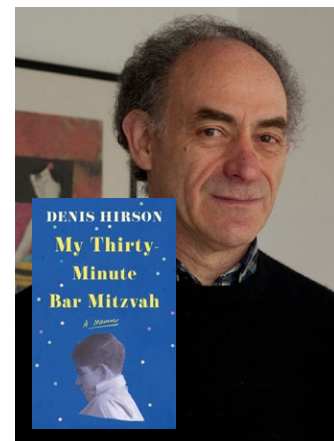
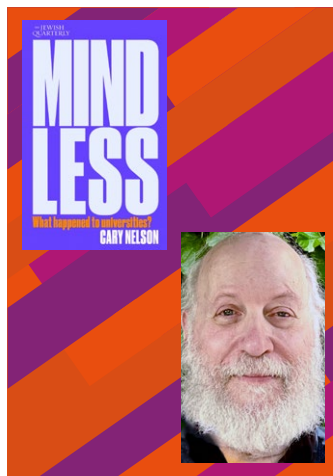
Mindless: What Happened to Universities?

In Partnership with the Jewish Quarterly and Lockdown University

Cary Nelson

In a groundbreaking essay for the *Jewish Quarterly*, **Cary Nelson** argues that, in the aftermath of the 7 October attacks, universities have been gripped by a toxic and dangerous fervour—a betrayal of the ideals they are meant to uphold. As Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Illinois and former president of the American Association of University Professors, he charts how this crisis has been decades in the making. Author of *Hate Speech and Academic Freedom*, Nelson joins us online to examine what he sees as profound institutional failures on campuses worldwide and the forces driving them.

8–9pm Tickets free



My Thirty-Minute Bar Mitzvah

In partnership with Lockdown University

Denis Hirson

What kind of bar mitzvah lasts just half an hour? From the highly unusual ceremony as he turned 13 to the day his family secrets exploded, **Denis Hirson** recreates 1960s Johannesburg in his breathtaking memoir. With the surprising help of his 11-year-old daughter, the writer and lecturer confronts the troubles of his past with wisdom and humour, finally coming to understand his own father. The bestselling author of *The House Next Door to Africa* joins us to reflect on familial and political divisions in apartheid-era South Africa, and the silences that surrounded his Jewish heritage.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets free

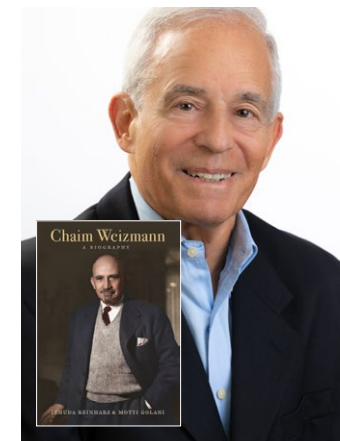
Chaim Weizmann: A Biography

In partnership with Lockdown University

Jehuda Reinharz | Chair: Trudy Gold

Historian **Jehuda Reinharz**, co-author of a magisterial new biography of Israel's first president, Chaim Weizmann, joins us to discuss how a Russian Jew who immigrated to the UK in the early 20th century advanced Theodor Herzl's vision for a Jewish state. Written with fellow historian Motti Golani, this biography presents Weizmann as a complex figure, celebrated for his intelligence, wit, charisma, and dedication, yet also marked by human flaws—including his infatuations, political manoeuvring and elitism. From Weizmann's childhood in Belarus to his influential relationships with British prime ministers and U.S. presidents, this is the definitive account of a pivotal leader.

2–3pm Tickets free



JLF PLAYER Highlights on Screen at Kings Place

Sunday 9 March 11am–4pm

Enjoy cinema-style screenings of unforgettable conversations from past Jewish Book Week festivals. Free of charge, these curated highlights capture the vibrancy of the discussions that define the festival.

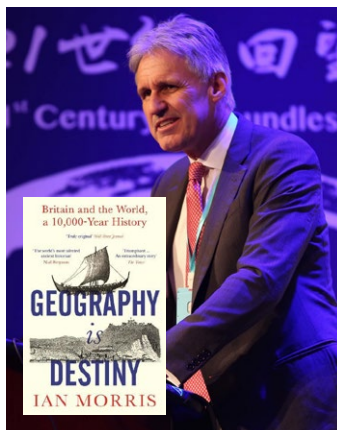
W BOOKSHOP

Waterstones

Visit our festival bookshop at Kings Place to find titles by all your favourite Jewish Book Week authors.

Open during event hours at Kings Place, immerse yourself in the ideas and stories that are at the heart of the festival.





Is Geography Destiny?

In association with City Lit

Ian Morris | Chair: Mark Malcomson

While geography has remained unchanged since sea levels stabilised after the Ice Age, its impact on human societies has shifted dramatically over millennia—and is now evolving faster than ever. For 10,000 years, the Middle East has been a critical land bridge between Africa and Asia, at times marginal to global affairs and at others, at the very heart of history. Stanford historian and author of *Why the West Rules – For Now*, **Ian Morris**, joins City Lit Principal **Mark Malcomson** to explore how geography shapes human destiny, how human choices shape geography, and what it all means for our interconnected world.

7–8pm Tickets £22

Being Human

Guy Leschziner | Alastair Santhouse
Chair: Bidisha

Are our emotions and behaviours shaped by biology alone, or is there something deeper at play? And are we truly less psychologically healthy than past generations? Two leading medical experts tackle these pressing questions. Neurologist Dr **Guy Leschziner**, author of *The Man Who Tasted Words*, explores the biological roots of human behaviour in his new book, *Seven Deadly Sins: The Biology of Being Human*, questioning whether “sins” are moral failings or natural functions. Psychiatrist Dr **Alastair Santhouse**, author of *No More Normal: Mental Health in an Age of Over-Diagnosis*, offers insights from clinical practice to address today’s mental health challenges and propose fresh solutions.

7–8pm Tickets £16



Joe Dunthorne: Children of Radium

Chair: Ariana Neumann

Joe Dunthorne’s great-grandfather, Siegfried, was a legendary figure in his family: a Jewish refugee who daringly returned to Nazi Germany during the Berlin Olympics to stage a heist on his own home, and the eccentric inventor of radioactive toothpaste. But when the *Submarine* author became the first descendant to read Siegfried’s unpublished memoir, he uncovered a story more complex than imagined. As he explores the life of a ‘jolly grandpa’ with an encyclopaedic knowledge of poison gases and a turbulent psychiatric history, Joe wrestles with inheritance, identity, and legacy, in conversation with *When Time Stopped* author **Ariana Neumann**.

7–8pm Tickets £10



Iran in Focus: Proxies, Power, and Nuclear Ambitions

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

Shashank Joshi | Anshel Pfeffer | Sharan Tabari
Chair: Jonathan Rosenthal

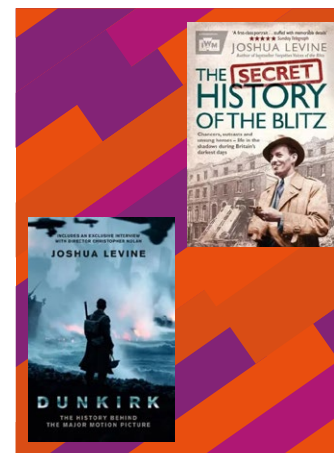
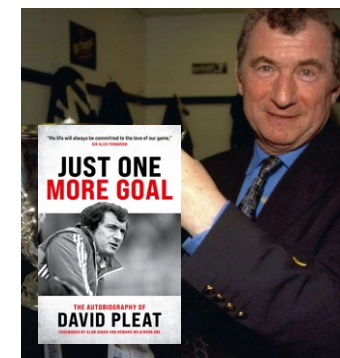
Since its 1979 revolution, Iran has destabilised the region and alarmed the West. Its leadership calls for Israel’s destruction, seizes Western visitors as bargaining chips, and supports militant groups like Hezbollah, the Houthis, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad. While Syria’s regime change occurred without significant Iranian intervention, Iran’s nuclear programme remains a major global concern. **Sharan Tabari**, Iran adviser at the Legatum Institute, **Shashank Joshi**, Defence Editor at *The Economist*, and Israel Editor and author **Anshel Pfeffer** join International Editor **Jonathan Rosenthal** to discuss Iran’s proxies, nuclear ambitions, and regional power dynamics.

8.30–9.30pm Tickets £22

David Pleat: Just One More Goal

David Pleat, Britain’s most successful Jewish football manager, has been at the heart of football’s evolution for over six decades. From managing Nuneaton Borough aged 26 to a four-decade association with Tottenham Hotspur, his career has included transformative roles, three stints as caretaker manager, and working with figures like Alan Sugar, Daniel Levy, Glenn Hoddle, and José Mourinho. Alongside spells at Sheffield Wednesday, Leicester City and Luton Town, his time at Spurs saw dramatic highs and a tabloid scandal. Join Pleat as he reflects on a remarkable journey through football’s changing landscape.

8.30–9.30pm Tickets £16



Dunkirk and Blitz: Making History Matter

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

Joshua Levine | Chair: Katie Razzall

Joshua Levine, the author whose work inspired Christopher Nolan’s *Dunkirk* and guided Steve McQueen in creating *Blitz*, has been celebrated for uncovering the human truths behind familiar narratives. Both films, like Levine’s bestselling books, have been praised for their depth and authenticity.

Now, Levine joins the BBC’s Culture and Media Editor, **Katie Razzall**, to explore the making of these cinematic landmarks, the personalities that shaped them, and his role as a historical adviser. Together, they discuss the films’ accuracy, the significance of history, and Levine’s perspective on how the past should—and should not—be presented.

8.30–9.30pm Tickets £10



33 Place Brugmann

In partnership with Lockdown University

Alice Austen

On the eve of the occupation of Brussels in 1940, life for those living in the apartments at 33 Place Brugmann is about to change forever. An art dealer's family disappears, leaving behind only their priceless collection. A Nazi functionary moves into the building and the residents' lives become increasingly entwined. Internationally acclaimed playwright and filmmaker **Alice Austen** joins us online from the US to discuss her debut novel *33 Place Brugmann*, a propulsive and hopeful tour de force championing the restorative power of love, courage and art in times of great threat.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets free

John Singer Sargent & the Wertheimers

In partnership with Lockdown University

Jean Strouse

Bancroft Prize winner **Jean Strouse** joins us to discuss the mysteries and tragedies surrounding 12 portraits of an Edwardian family by an American artist at the height of his powers. By commissioning John Singer Sargent, London art dealer Asher Wertheimer became his greatest private patron. When he left most of the series to London's National Gallery, the Wertheimers were the first Jews to appear alongside the Anglo-Saxon dignitaries painted by earlier masters. *Family Romance* travels from the Habsburg court to fascist Italy, charting the decline of the British aristocracy and the rise of new wealth on both sides of the Atlantic.

2–3pm Tickets free



Craig Brown: A Voyage Around the Queen

Anne Frank kept her picture on the wall of her annex; Virginia Woolf compared her to a caterpillar; Haile Selassie gave her a gold tiara. Queen Elizabeth II was famous for longer than anyone who has ever lived. Now the *One Two Three Four* author and *Private Eye* diarist **Craig Brown** makes his Jewish Book Week debut with the *Sunday Times* bestseller, which the *Sunday Telegraph* called “a very unusual masterpiece”. An unmissable hour with one of the funniest writers of our times, winner of the South Bank Show Sky Arts Award, the Baillie Gifford Prize and the James Tait Black Award.

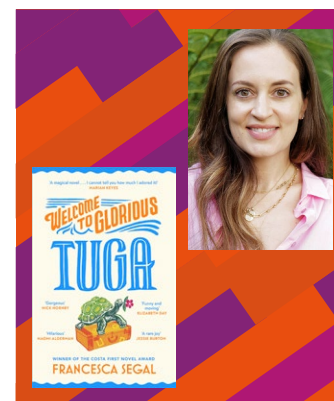
7–8pm Tickets £22

Sigrid Rausing: And the Walls Became the World All Around

Chair: Devorah Baum

When the celebrated Swedish writer and artist Johanna Ekström found out that she was dying, she asked her closest friend, Granta publisher and philanthropist **Sigrid Rausing**, to finish her last book. The author of *Everything is Wonderful* and *Mayhem* joins us to discuss transcribing, translating and editing the 13 handwritten notebooks left by Ekström, resulting in an acclaimed memoir of exceptional depth and intensity. Interwoven with Rausing's spare and sober reflections, *And the Walls Became the World All Around* is a literary experiment, a testament to friendship, and a deep meditation on grief.

7–8pm Tickets £16



Francesca Segal: Welcome to Glorious Tuga

Amid a world that often feels bleak, Costa Prize winner **Francesca Segal** describes *Welcome to Glorious Tuga* as “a deliberate reaching out for joy.” She adds, “Tuga de Oro was a refuge for its first settlers, and I hope it will offer refuge for readers, too.”

With bestseller status, praise from Nigella Lawson as “a much-needed escape,” and Nick Hornby calling it “brilliantly and thoroughly imagined,” it's clear Segal has succeeded. The acclaimed author of *The Innocents* and *Mother Ship* returns to Jewish Book Week with this uplifting story of a zoologist's year-long fellowship on a tiny, remote island.

7–8pm Tickets £10

Mosaic Voices

In a special residency at our Kings Place events

Make sure you've joined our mailing list to read more about how the resident choir of one of Europe's most beautiful synagogues will be featured at this year's festival.

Music by Mosaic Voices will be featured throughout the day.

Sunday 9 March





An Evening with Elif Shafak

One of the most acclaimed writers of our time, **Elif Shafak** returns to Jewish Book Week as her latest global bestseller is published in paperback. Winner of the British Academy's President's Medal, Shafak's work has been translated into 56 languages.

Following the Booker Prize-shortlisted *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World* and the *Sunday Times* bestseller *The Island of Missing Trees*, her new novel, *There Are Rivers in the Sky*, weaves together an ancient Mesopotamian king, a Victorian mudlark, and contemporary riverside dwellers on the Thames and Tigris—connected by the journey of a single drop of water.

8.30–9.30pm Tickets £22

Myra Hess: National Treasure

Jessica Duchén | Chair: **Nigel Hess**

Dame Myra Hess, Britain's most celebrated concert pianist, became a national icon through her legendary lunchtime concerts at the National Gallery, which took place every weekday throughout World War II, bolstering Londoners' morale. In the first biography of Hess in nearly 50 years, **Jessica Duchén** offers a compelling and nuanced portrait of this charming, complex and formidable woman. Join the acclaimed author and *Sunday Times* and *BBC Music Magazine* critic in conversation with **Nigel Hess**, Ivor Novello Award-winning composer and Dame Myra's great-nephew, as they explore Dame Myra's remarkable life.

8.30–9.30pm Tickets £16

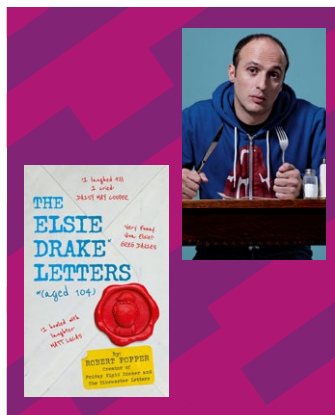


Robert Popper: The Elsie Drake Letters

"Robert Popper is not only certifiably one of the Funniest People in the World™, but also the loveliest 104-year-old woman you could ever hope to meet." 'Weird Al' Yankovic

With *Friday Night Dinner*, **Robert Popper** created one of the most beloved sitcoms of the century, cementing his place as a brilliant comedic talent. His impressive portfolio includes producing *Peep Show*, script-editing *The Inbetweeners*, starring in *Look Around You*, writing for *South Park*, and topping bestseller lists with *The Timewaster Letters*. Now, Popper brings his signature humour to Jewish Book Week, sharing his brilliantly funny new book. Meet his eccentric alter ego, Elsie Drake, as she pens hilariously bizarre letters to everyone from Arsenal Football Club to the Prime Minister.

8.30–9.30pm Tickets £10



Trump 2.0: What's Next?

In association with City Lit

Mark Malcomson | **Ian Morris** | **Zoe Strimpel**
Chair: **David Aaronovitch**

With Donald Trump back in the White House, how might his second presidency shape America's domestic and foreign policy? What's next for the US? Trump's first term brought sweeping changes: the Abraham Accords, recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital, withdrawal from the JCPOA nuclear deal, and a confrontational stance towards Iran. Domestically, Trump's policies polarised Americans on immigration, the judiciary, and voting rights, while his "America First" doctrine redefined the country's global role. Journalist **David Aaronovitch** moderates a panel with City Lit principal and US expert **Mark Malcomson**, global historian **Ian Morris**, and journalist **Zoe Strimpel**.

7.45–8.45pm Tickets £22

The Making of Ukrainian Jewry

Marina Sapritsky-Nahum | **Ilya Kaminsky**

Amidst immense destruction, the war in Ukraine has revealed the remarkable resilience of its people and fostered unity among Ukrainians of all faiths, whilst igniting a renewed sense of belonging within Jewish communities both at home and across the diaspora. A panel including award-winning Ukrainian writer **Ilya Kaminsky** and Jewish Odesa author **Dr Marina Sapritsky-Nahum** explores the diverse cultural exchanges that have emerged, the experiences of Jewish communities in Ukraine today—as well as among Ukrainian Jewish refugees abroad—and traces the dynamic evolution of a distinct Ukrainian Jewish heritage.

7.45–8.45pm Tickets £16



The Wingate Prize 2025

In Partnership with The Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation Jewish Book Week is proud to host an evening celebrating the 48th Wingate Prize, awarded annually to the best fiction or non-fiction book that conveys the idea of Jewishness to a broad readership.

Wingate Foundation trustee **Emily Kasriel** will be joined by the 2025 judges: author and critic **Erica Wagner**, biographer **Keiron Pim**, Rabbi **Zahavit Shalev** of New North London Synagogue, and *Authenticity* author **Alice Sherwood**. Subject to availability, this year's winner will also attend. Together, they will discuss the key themes and ideas emerging from this year's shortlist, followed by a drinks reception.

7.45–9pm Tickets £16 (to include a welcome drink)



Jack Rosenthal: A Celebration

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

Maureen Lipman and guests

Twenty years after his passing we celebrate Jack Rosenthal, one of the best-loved playwrights and screenwriters of the last century, in the company of his wife, Jewish Book Week favourite Dame **Maureen Lipman**, and special celebrity guests. From writing for *Coronation Street* throughout the 1960s to Alec Guinness' final role in *Eskimo Day*, and writing *Yentl* with Barbra Streisand, Jack delighted film and television viewers for over 40 years.

A BAFTA winner for *The Bar Mitzvah Boy*, *The Knowledge*, and *Spend, Spend, Spend*, as well as an Emmy recipient for *The Evacuees*, he also created ITV sitcoms *The Dustbin Men* and *The Lovers*, along with the series *London's Burning*.

11am–12pm Tickets £22

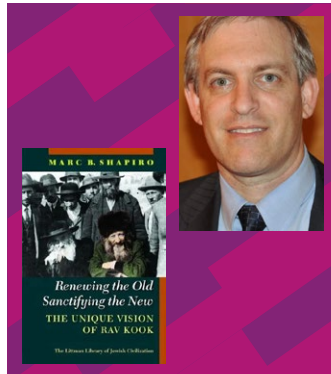
The Unique Vision of Rav Kook

Sponsored by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization

Marc B. Shapiro | Chair: Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz

Rav Kook, the first Ashkenazi chief rabbi of pre-state Israel, was a pioneering figure in religious Zionist ideology, and his theological positions have influenced generations. In *Renewing the Old, Sanctifying the New*, **Marc B. Shapiro** explores this revered thinker in the context of newly discovered writings, uncovering ideas that have not yet entered mainstream consciousness. In conversation with LSJS research fellow **Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz**.

11am–12pm Tickets £16



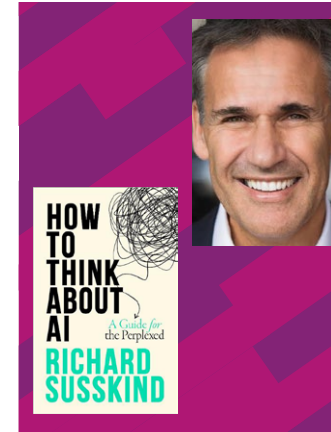
The Legacy of Yehuda Bauer

Ruth-Anne Lenga | Chair: Trudy Gold

"I come from a people who gave the Ten Commandments to the world. Time has come to strengthen them by three additional ones: thou shalt not be a perpetrator; thou shalt not be a victim; and thou shalt never, but never, be a bystander."

Yehuda Bauer, who passed away in October aged 98, was considered by many to be the world's leading Holocaust scholar. A longtime advisor to Yad Vashem and one of the key authors of the 2000 Stockholm Declaration, he wrote over 40 books and was awarded the Israel Prize. **Ruth-Anne Lenga**, Associate Professor at UCL's Centre for Holocaust Education and Bauer's niece by marriage, joins historian **Trudy Gold** to reflect on his life and career.

11am–12pm Tickets £10



AI: A Guide for the Perplexed

Richard Susskind | Chair: Daniel Glaser

Professor **Richard Susskind**, a leading expert on the impact of artificial intelligence, challenges us to rethink its role in society. In his accessible, non-technical guide, *How to Think About AI*, Susskind draws on his extensive experience working with AI since the 1980s. As the world's most cited author on the future of legal services and a 25-year technology adviser to the Lord Chief Justice, he positions ChatGPT and generative AI as just the latest chapter in an unfolding story, arguing that navigating the benefits and risks of AI is the defining challenge of our time.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets £22

Picasso's Muse

Louisa Treger | Chair: Anne Sebba

The greatest art romance of all time? A haunting love story? Perhaps both. Born Henriette Markovitch, Dora Maar was a gifted photographer, poet, and painter. Yet history often remembers her primarily as Pablo Picasso's muse—his passionate partner who inspired *Guernica* and his move towards political art. Their tumultuous relationship, marked by Picasso's infidelity and refusal to leave his wife, drove Dora to the brink. In *The Paris Muse*, **Louisa Treger**, author of *The Lodger* and *Madwoman*, reimagines Dora's life, reclaiming her story in a vivid fictional retelling.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets £16



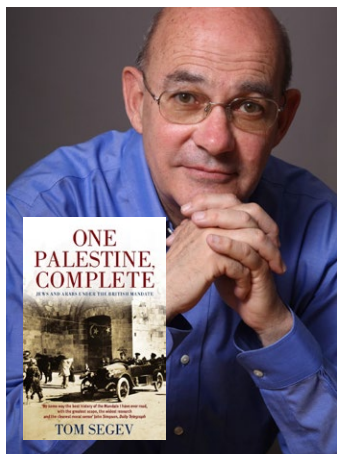
Isaac Bashevis Singer: Old Truths & New Clichés

In association with the Yiddish Book Centre

David Stromberg | Chair: David Herman

Old Truths & New Clichés is a collection of 19 essays—most appearing in English for the first time—that illuminate the rich intellectual, aesthetic, religious, and personal world of Isaac Bashevis Singer, the only Yiddish-language author to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. These essays explore the themes central to his most famous works—literary art, Jewish life, mysticism, and philosophy. **David Stromberg**, writer, translator, and literary scholar, who edited the volume, joins us to share unique insights into Singer's astonishing and prolific career, which spanned more than six decades.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets £10



Tom Segev: One Palestine, Complete

Sponsored by Michael & Jackie Gee

Chair: Anshel Pfeffer

A *New York Times* Book of the Year upon its release in 2000, *One Palestine, Complete* was hailed by John Simpson as “by far the best history of the Mandate”. Now, a quarter-century later, *Haaretz* columnist and David Ben-Gurion biographer **Tom Segev** returns to Jewish Book Week with a newly updated edition of this landmark work.

Segev explores the British rule of Palestine from 1917 to 1948, a period of boundless potential and tragic missteps during which the Jewish population grew tenfold. Replacing 500 years of Turkish control, Britain’s promise to both Arabs and Jews that they would inherit the land set in motion the conflict that persists in the region to this day.

2–3pm Tickets £22

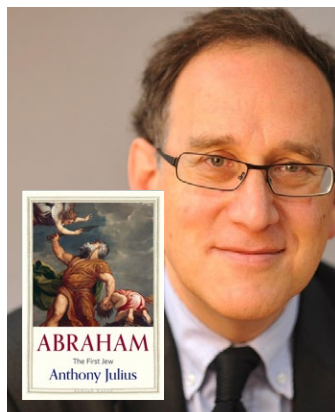
Abraham: The First Jew

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

Anthony Julius | Chair: Leya Landau

In this new addition to Yale’s *Jewish Lives* series, **Anthony Julius** explores Judaism’s first figure. He presents Abraham as living two distinct lives, each reflecting Judaism’s enduring contradictions. Julius examines the origins of a fundamental tension between scepticism and faith, independent thought and adherence to divine direction. After a youth spent challenging polytheism, and narrowly escaping death through a miracle, Abraham shifts his focus from critique to conversion—until a second miracle, which, Julius contends, becomes a personal catastrophe. He will discuss his insights with Dr **Leya Landau**.

2–3pm Tickets £16

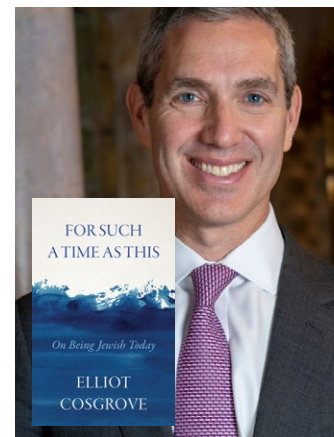


New Fiction Voices

Tom Lamont | Nathan Newman | Gemma Reeves
Chair: Gemma Seltzer

Three of the most compelling novelists to emerge in recent years join us to discuss their work and shared themes of family tensions, British Jewish life, and coming of age. Journalist **Tom Lamont**’s *Going Home*, named an *Observer* Debut of 2024, follows three men and a female rabbi who step in to raise a toddler. **Gemma Reeves**, author of *Victoria Park*, presents *Mamele*, a sharp and stylish mother-daughter drama hailed as “brilliant” by the *Daily Mail*. Award-winning short story writer **Nathan Newman**’s debut novel, *How to Leave The House*, was praised by the *New York Times* as “uproarious, generous, and witty.” In conversation with **Gemma Seltzer**.

2–3pm Tickets £10



Elliot Cosgrove: Being Jewish Today

The George Webber Memorial Event

Chair: Shoshana Boyd Gelfand

Since 2008, Rabbi **Elliot Cosgrove** of Park Avenue Synagogue has been one of the most influential voices in American Jewry. In a rare UK appearance, he discusses his thought-provoking book, *For Such a Time as This: On Being Jewish Today*.

Reflecting on the dark aftermath of 7 October, Cosgrove contends that even in the face of stark antisemitism, the Jewish community is witnessing something profound: a renewed and abiding connection to community, culture, and faith. He offers a poignant exploration of the impact of Israel and Zionism on American Judaism, the ties and tensions that shape us today, and how to navigate a world that has, century after century, turned against Jews.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £22

The Women’s Orchestra of Auschwitz

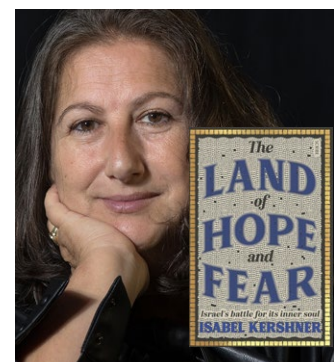
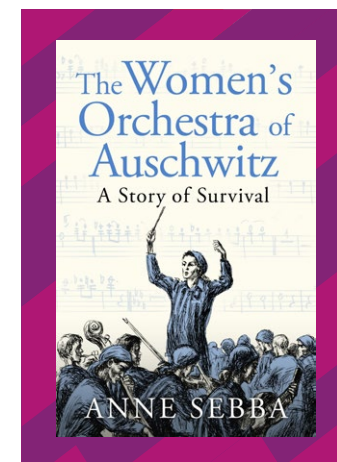
In memory of Dr David Cohen CBE

In association with The London Library

Anne Sebba

What role could music possibly play in a death camp? In 1943, 50 female inmates were conscripted into an orchestra at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Amid unimaginable brutality, they performed for both exhausted forced labourers and their Nazi captors—a harrowing existence that, nonetheless, saved nearly all their lives. Award-winning historian **Anne Sebba** brings this extraordinary story to light, drawing on meticulous research and exclusive first-hand accounts. From conductor Alma Rosé, niece of Gustav Mahler, to the orchestra’s last surviving member, Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, Sebba unravels the astonishing tale of the musicians, their resilience, and the complex responses of fellow prisoners.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £16



The Battle for Israel’s Soul

Sponsored by the New Israel Fund

Isabel Kershner

Israel stands strong in a hostile region, bolstered by military prowess and global business innovation. Yet, it is deeply divided. The old guard of socialist elites is fading, while the country’s democratic foundations face unprecedented challenges. *New York Times* Jerusalem correspondent **Isabel Kershner** presents a wide-ranging portrait of the Israeli people at a pivotal moment in history, introducing us to a diverse array of voices—Jews and Arabs, religious and secular, liberals and zealots—grappling with conflict and existential threats.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £10



Simon Sebag Montefiore & Dave Rich

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

Chair: Hadley Freeman

In a recent Sky News interview, **Simon Sebag Montefiore** observed, "In historical terms, what we're seeing is the end of the taboo on antisemitism," 80 years after the end of World War Two. Now, the acclaimed historian and author of *Jerusalem* joins CST's **Dave Rich**, whose *Everyday Hate: How Antisemitism is Built into Our World and How You Can Change It* has been fully updated to address the events of 7 October and their aftermath.

In conversation with *Sunday Times* journalist **Hadley Freeman**, they will confront the persistence of the world's oldest hatred and its implications in 2025.

5–6pm Tickets £22



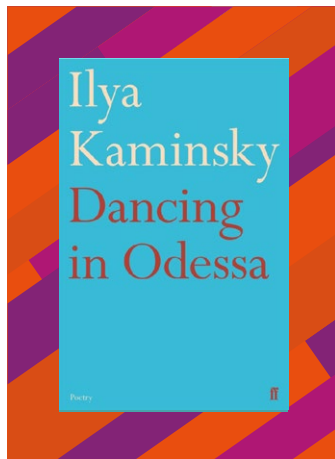
Across Cultures, Across Continents: Jewish Poetry & Music

Co-Sponsored with Jewish Renaissance & Yetzirah: A hearth for Jewish Poetry

Ilya Kaminsky | Aviva Dautch | Jessica Jacobs Jacqueline Saphra | Chair: Eve Grubin

Journey from Odesa to America and Britain, from biblical times to what it means to be Jewish today, in the company of leading poets. Transatlantic poet and academic **Eve Grubin** is joined by Ukrainian-American writer **Ilya Kaminsky**, recently selected by the BBC as 'one of 12 artists that changed the world'; award-winning poet and playwright **Jacqueline Saphra**; **Jessica Jacobs** author of *unalone*, poems in conversation with the Book of Genesis; and Radio 4 poetry expert **Aviva Dautch**. With interludes of Ladino, Israeli and European Jewish music featuring renowned soprano **Sarit Aloni**.

5–6pm Tickets £16



Hannah Arendt's Lessons

Lyndsey Stonebridge | Chair: Anthony Julius

Shortlisted for the Orwell Prize, *We Are Free to Change The World: Hannah Arendt's Lessons in Love and Disobedience* offers a bold exploration of the life and work of one of the world's most influential—and controversial—thinkers.

Lyndsey Stonebridge brings Arendt's ideas into urgent conversation with our turbulent present. Writing unflinchingly about power, terror, exile, and freedom, Arendt championed a politics of plurality, spontaneity, and defiance over darkness and tyranny. Stonebridge, award-winning author of *Placeless People* and *The Judicial Imagination*, discusses these themes with lawyer and writer **Anthony Julius**.

5–6pm Tickets £10



Giant: Nicholas Hytner & Mark Rosenblatt

Sponsored by the Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust in association with the London Library

Having been previewed exclusively at our 2024 festival by director Sir **Nicholas Hytner**, **Mark Rosenblatt's** play *Giant* became one of London's theatrical sensations of the year. Based on true events and starring John Lithgow as Roald Dahl, *Giant* sold out its entire Royal Court run before its first preview and received five-star reviews from critics at *The Times* and the *Evening Standard*. Hytner, a Tony and Olivier winner, and debut playwright, Rosenblatt, worked closely together from the play's inception. In this unique conversation, they discuss *Giant* and its nuanced exploration of antisemitism and artistic freedom.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £22



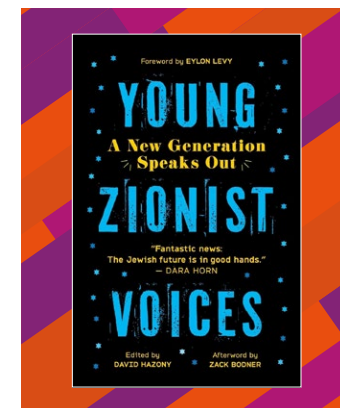
Young Zionist Voices

Oliver Anisfeld | David Hazony | Noah Katz

Chair: Natasha Hausdorff

In the aftermath of 7 October and the surge of antisemitism, a new generation of Jewish leaders has risen to act. *Young Zionist Voices* brings them together. Hailed by Yossi Klein Halevi as "a gift of hope," this essay collection features 31 campus activists, young professionals, thought leaders, and rabbis from the US, UK, Israel, and beyond, committed to a strong, proud Jewish future. Editor **David Hazony** joins contributors **Oliver Anisfeld**, founder of J-TV, and **Noah Katz**, Board of Deputies Under 35 Assembly chair, in conversation with **Natasha Hausdorff**, legal director of UK Lawyers for Israel.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £16

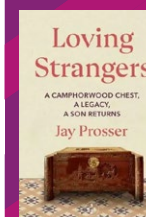


Loving Strangers

Jay Prosser | Chair: Leslie Hakim-Dowek

Loving Strangers: A Camphorwood Chest, a Legacy, a Son Returns is a powerful family memoir reimagining Jewish identity beyond the familiar landscapes of Europe and the Shoah, journeying through Iraq, India, China, and Singapore. Described by Claudia Roden as "a beautiful and moving story that brings to life a fascinating part of Jewish history," it explores themes of immigration, intermarriage, and integration. Prize-winning author **Jay Prosser** discusses his book with artist and photographer **Leslie Hakim-Dowek**, who reflects on memory and identity through *Index of Objects*, her poignant project cataloguing her late mother's cherished belongings.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £10





Richard Rodgers: Something Wonderful

In memory of Dr Andrea Cope

**Petroc Trelawny | Julian Ovenden | Laura Pitt-Pulford
Ryan MacKenzie | Chair: Edward Seckerson**

For our grand finale, join us for an enchanting celebration of Richard Rodgers, hailed as one of the greatest popular melodists of all time. Writer and broadcaster **Edward Seckerson** teams up with Radio 3's **Petroc Trelawny** to explore Rodgers' iconic collaborations with Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein II and to recount the story of Julie Andrews' tribute album to the legendary composer. Accompanied by musical director **Ryan MacKenzie**, Olivier nominees **Julian Ovenden** (*South Pacific*, *My Favourite Things*) and **Laura Pitt-Pulford** (*Standing at the Sky's Edge*) bring Rodgers' timeless music to life in an evening of words, stories, and unforgettable melodies.

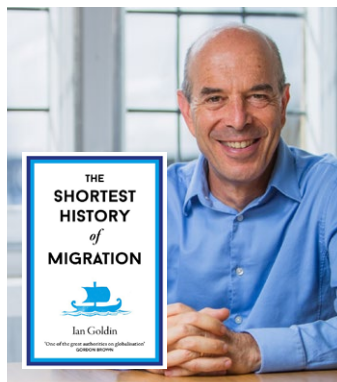
8.15–9.30pm Tickets from £20

The Shortest History of Migration

Ian Goldin

Throughout human history, the ability to journey across vast distances and adapt to new environments has been essential to our survival. Yet today, this deep migratory impulse faces unprecedented challenges. Former World Bank VP and adviser to Nelson Mandela, **Ian Goldin**—Oxford Professor of Globalisation & Development—argues that by erecting ever-stronger walls and barriers, governments not only harm the lives of migrants but also jeopardise our societies' well-being. The author of *Rescue* returns with a compelling vision, grounded in history and the latest data, for a more humane future that embraces the benefits migration can offer.

8–9pm Tickets £16



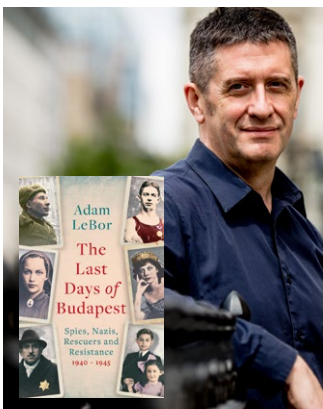
The Last Days of Budapest

Sponsored by the Jewish Quarterly; in association with the TLS

Adam LeBor | Chair: Toby Lichtig

Adam LeBor vividly reconstructs wartime Budapest, the tragic fate of half its Jewish population, and the devastation of the siege. Just months before the Nazi invasion in early 1944, the Hungarian capital remained at peace, a sanctuary for refugees. By summer, most of the surviving Jews had been forcibly relocated and those that remained faced winter with the city under siege by the Red Army. Journalist and author Adam LeBor shares a set of remarkable stories, from a Christian doctor who sheltered her Jewish neighbours, to Hungary's leading actress and her spy-chief lover, offering a haunting portrait of a city on the brink of collapse.

8–9pm Tickets £10



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Events held in memory of Robin Hyman

Murder in Constantinople

A.E. Goldin

The Daily Mail calls screenwriter and musician **A.E. Goldin's** debut novel *Murder in Constantinople* "a rip-roaring adventure," and *The Sun* says it's "unputdownable." Set on the eve of the Crimean War, it follows Ben Canaan, drawn to Constantinople by a mysterious letter.

12.30–1.30pm



The Story of Rodgers & Hammerstein's Carousel

Barry Kester

On the 80th anniversary of *Carousel*, author **Barry Kester** explores the lasting impact of Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1945 Broadway hit. Adapted from Ferenc Molnár's *Liliom*, the musical succeeded despite initial reluctance. Kester examines its evolution, including the 1956 film and Sir Nicholas Hytner's National Theatre production.

2–3pm



Displacement: Zweig, Roth & Benjamin

Richard Harper | Chair: Trudy Gold

Former judge and barrister **Richard Harper** examines the impact of fascism on writers Stefan Zweig, Joseph Roth, and Walter Benjamin. In conversation with historian **Trudy Gold**, Harper discusses their enduring literary legacies, shaped by persecution and exile.

3.30–4.30pm



Elena: A Hand Made Life

Miriam Gold | Chair: Claire Berliner

Artist **Miriam Gold** tells the remarkable story of her grandmother, Elena Zadik, a refugee twice by the age of 17 who became a doctor during WWII. After losing her parents at Auschwitz, she rebuilt her life with perseverance. Longlisted for the Wingate Prize, Gold uses words, illustration, and collage to capture her resilience.

5–6pm

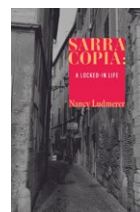


Sarra Copia: A Locked-in Life

Nancy Ludmerer

Author **Nancy Ludmerer** reimagines the life of Italian poet Sarra Copia, confined in the Venetian ghetto from 1592 until her death. Known for her poetry and beauty, Sarra was supported by her father and attracted Catholic poets to her salon until accused of heresy. Ludmerer's novella explores her inner life and family relationships.

6.30–7.30pm





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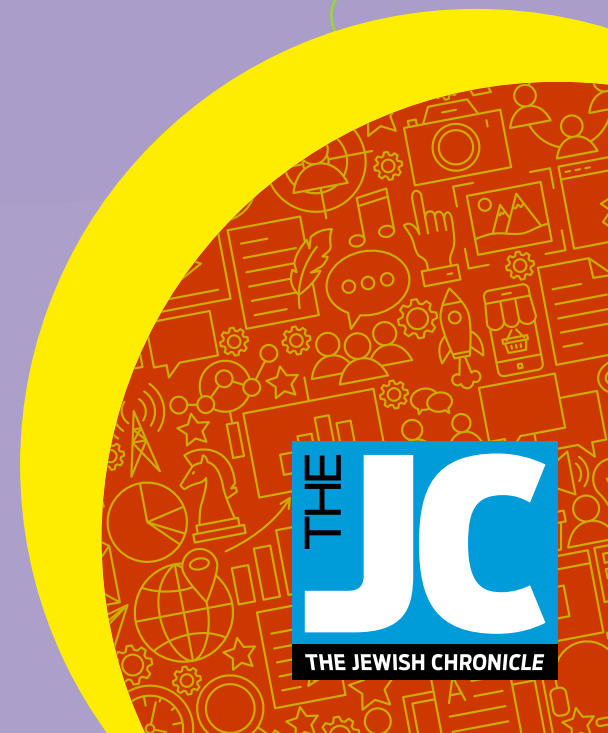
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As the newly relaunched Jewish Literary Foundation, we proudly continue a legacy of more than 70 years dedicated to celebrating Jewish books and ideas, cultivating a passion for the Jewish literary tradition.

Jewish Book Week, our annual flagship festival, offers an unparalleled platform to explore Jewish thought, creativity, and storytelling. But only a third of the festival's costs are covered by ticket sales. To ensure that Jewish literature remains accessible to all, we rely on the generosity of supporters like you.

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