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ATTENTION: BOOKS, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS

The first novel about anti-Israelism in the academe, the “modern-day Indiana Jones,” and a French-language anthology of Canadian Jewish writers to be featured at the 2014 Toronto Jewish Literary Festival

TORONTO, Ontario, April 29, 2014 – The **2014 Toronto Jewish Literary Festival** has announced its full schedule of events. The annual weeklong festival features Canadian and international authors, and a wide-range of talks exploring contemporary Jewish life, history, big ideas, politics, and current affairs.

The Toronto Jewish Literary Festival is presented by the **Koffler Centre of the Arts** from **May 25 to June 1, 2014**. Geared towards diverse audiences in different locations, the Festival presents literary programs in partnership with other Jewish organizations across the city. All programs are free or pay-what-you-can; registration is required.

Festival venues include **Artscape Youngplace** (180 Shaw St.), **Beth David Synagogue** (55 Yeomans Rd.), **Bram and Bluma Appel Salon at the Toronto Reference Library** (789 Yonge St.), **Miles Nadal JCC** (750 Spadina Ave.), and **Temple Emanu-El** (120 Old Colony Rd.).

Hailed by the *Canadian Jewish News* as “the modern day Indiana Jones,” Toronto-born reporter and author **Matti Friedman** will speak on his award-winning book *The Aleppo Codex* on **Monday, May 26, 7:30 PM** at Temple Emanu-El. Friedman lives and works in Jerusalem, where his work as a reporter has taken him from Lebanon to Morocco, Cairo, Moscow and Washington, D.C., and to conflicts in Israel and the Caucasus. He has been a correspondent for the Associated Press and the Jerusalem Report, where he specialized in religion and archaeology in Israel and the Palestinian territories. *The Aleppo Codex* won the 2014 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, one of the largest literary prizes in the world at \$100,000, as well as the American Library Association’s Sophie Brody Medal and the Canadian Jewish Book Award for History.

Fields of Exile, the first novel about anti-Israelism in the academe, by author, academic, community activist and editor **Nora Gold** will be launched at this year’s Lit Fest. Gold is currently the Writer-in-Residence and an Associate Scholar at the Centre for Women’s Studies in Education (CWSE) at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto (OISE/UT) and the editor of the online journal JewishFiction.net. Gold will launch *Fields of Exile* on **Thursday, May 29, 7:30 PM** at Artscape Youngplace.

Two Yiddish-themed events are also presented at this year’s Lit Fest. **Goldie Morgentaler**, Professor of English at the University of Lethbridge, will present the 2nd annual Simcha Simchovitch Lecture on **Sunday, May 25, 4:30 PM** at the Miles Nadal JCC. Morgentaler will speak on Chava Rosenfarb, one of the most important Yiddish writers of the 20th Century, with readings by **Eileen Thalenberg** in Yiddish and English. The program is presented together with UJA Federation’s Committee for Yiddish and as part of Ontario Jewish Heritage Month.

Poet and translator, **Chantal Ringuet** will present her recent French-language anthology of Canadian Jewish writers with readings in in English, Yiddish and French on **Sunday, June 1, 1 PM** at the Beth David Synagogue. The program is Presented together with UJA Federation’s Committee for Yiddish, Friends of Yiddish, and the Toronto Workmen’s Circle.

Professor of Judaic Studies and Interim Chair, Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University, **Ira Robinson** will speak on his latest book, *Canada’s Jews: In Time, Space and Spirit*, a

collection of essays about the history, geography, and spirit of one of the world's largest Jewish communities. The program takes place on **Wednesday, May 28, 7:30 PM** at Temple Emanu-El.

Toronto-based journalist, author, publisher, public speaker and noted genealogist, **Bill Gladstone** launches a new edition of Shirley Faessler's beloved *A Basket of Apples*, a group of short stories about Jewish characters in Kensington Market in the 1920s and 1930s. **Karen Hines**, the author's granddaughter, joins Gladstone and reads from the stories on **Sunday, June 1, 3:30 PM** at the Beth David Synagogue.

The Toronto Jewish Literary Festival also features the 26th annual **Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards** celebrating excellence in Canadian writing on Jewish themes and subjects. The awards will be handed out to the winning authors during a free, public ceremony on **Tuesday, May 27, 8 PM** at the Toronto Reference Library.

Full event details and registration information is posted at www.kofflerarts.org

2013 Toronto Jewish Literary Festival partners, sponsors and supporters: Committee for Yiddish/UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Jewish Fiction.net, Friends of Yiddish in Toronto, The Workmen's Circle, Miles Nadal JCC, Jewish Heritage Month, Tikkun 18 Foundation, Rabbi Eva Goldfinger, Bonnie and Mel Shear, Mr. and Mrs. Avie Bennett, Malka and Al Green, United Bakers Dairy Restaurant, Pauline Milrad, Phyllis and Jack Chisvin, Elizabeth Shields, Ryna Langer, Jeffrey Hertz, Francys Kussner, Elaine and Morty Goldbach.

About the Koffler Centre of the Arts

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is a multidisciplinary arts organization and independent not-for-profit based in Jewish culture. We engage a contemporary dialogue through the arts that has local, national and international resonance.

The Koffler programs around the City of Toronto at several locations. Koffler Gallery exhibitions and related programs and the Koffler's administrative offices are based at Artscape Youngplace, in the vibrant downtown West Queen West art and design district. Koffler visual art and ceramic classes for all ages are held at the Prosserman JCC on Sherman Campus. Koffler multidisciplinary programs take place across the GTA at various venues.

Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of the Koffler Foundation, **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto**, Cultural Season Sponsor **CIBC Wood Gundy**, the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**, the **Ontario Arts Council** through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, Artscape, our patrons and members.

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