



The Vine Awards: Winners Announced

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is proud to announce the four winners of the 2017 [Vine Awards for Canadian Jewish Literature](#), all of whom were on hand to be celebrated at the Award Luncheon at the Park Hyatt Hotel.

The Vine Awards honour both the best Canadian Jewish writers and Canadian authors who deal with Jewish subjects, in four categories; fiction, non-fiction, history and young adult/children's literature; each with a prize of \$10,000. An additional \$10,000 prize for poetry will be awarded again in 2019. The Jury, Ami Sands Brodoff, Bob Bossin, and Cary Fagan selected the winners from the 58 submissions accepted this year.

“The jury was challenged by the exceptional quality of Vine Award submissions this year,” says Cathy Jonasson, executive director of the Koffler Centre of the Arts. “They worked hard to arrive at a consensus in choosing the winners from among the many deserving books that were submitted. The Koffler Centre of the Arts is happy to support this important prize both for the recognition it brings to the authors and their books, and because the jury’s comments draw attention to the ideas and issues explored in the books, many of which become the stimulus for conversations as part of the Koffler’s public programs.”

Fiction:

***Carry Me* - Peter Behrens (House of Anansi Press)**

Behrens is a master, at home in the broad sweep of history and the intimate detail of a character's experience. This is a novel that could be, should be, read in a hundred years –
The Jury

Non-Fiction:

***Toward a Hot Jew* - Miriam Libicki (Fantagraphics Books Inc.)**

An admirably complicated response to being a woman and a Jew in our time, a thrilling combination of memoir, journalism, and art - The Jury

History:

***Pumpkinflowers* - Matti Friedman (McClelland & Stewart)**

Matti Friedman's powerful writing raises this work of history and journalism to the level of art – The Jury

Children's/Young Adult:

***Seeking Refuge* - Irene N. Watts and Kathryn E. Shoemaker (Tradewind Books)**

A superb graphic novel dramatizing the Kindertransport, a powerful story enhanced by first-hand experience and beautiful black-and-white illustrations - The Jury

The **Vine Awards for Canadian Jewish Literature** is made possible by a generous donation by the **Lillian and Norman Glowinsky Family Foundation** to support Canadian Jewish literature, a tradition they established with the original awards in 2004, building on the Canadian Jewish Book Awards founded in 1988 by Adam Fuerstenberg. The Vine Awards are a loving tribute to Lillian's parents – Helen and Stan Vine – who were passionate about the arts and the Jewish community throughout their lives.

The **Koffler Centre of the Arts** is a cultural platform that explores critical ideas and concerns of our time through exhibitions, publications, performances, conversations and digital initiatives. We examine complex issues in respectful, constructive discussions that position our Jewish identity in conversation with diverse perspectives and global voices. The Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of the Koffler Family Foundation, Cultural Season Sponsor CIBC Wood Gundy, the Ontario Arts Council through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, The National Post (Media Partner for the Vine Awards), and our patrons and donors.