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## Jurors announced for the 2018 Vine Awards

The **Koffler Centre of the Arts** is proud to announce this year's jury for the **Vine Awards for Canadian Jewish Literature**; author and academic Beverley Chalmers, award-winning fiction author Joseph Kertes, and acclaimed poet and author Lee Maracle.

**Beverley Chalmers** is an internationally renowned academic with over 280 publications and 10 books to her credit. She has two doctoral degrees, a DSc in Medicine and a PhD in Psychology, and has undertaken over 140 international health promotion activities in over 25 countries in perinatal health. Her book, *Birth, Sex and Abuse: Women's Voices under Nazi Rule* was awarded a Vine Award for Canadian Jewish Literature, a USA National Jewish Book Award, a Canadian Jewish Literary Award, and a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Award. Her book *Pregnancy and Parenthood: Heaven or Hell* was published in multiple English, German and Russian editions as well as in Latvian. *Family-Centered Perinatal Care: Improving Pregnancy, Birth and Postpartum Care* was published in 2017.

**Joseph Kertes** was born in Hungary and escaped with his family to Canada after the revolution of 1956. A recipient of numerous awards for teaching and innovation, Kertes founded Humber College's creative writing and comedy programs, and was until recently Humber's Dean of Creative and Performing Art. He is the author of *Winter Tulips*, which won the Stephen Leacock Award for Humor, *Boardwalk*, *The Gift*, *The Red Corduroy Shirt*, and *Gratitude* which won a Canadian Jewish Book Award and the U.S. National Jewish Book Award for Fiction. His latest, *The Afterlife of Stars*, was a *New York Times* Book Review Editor's Choice; he is a recipient of the Harbourfront Festival Prize.

**Lee Maracle** is a Coast Salish poet and author of a number of critically acclaimed literary works including *Ravensong*, *Daughters Are Forever*, *Will's Garden*, *Bobbi Lee: Indian Rebel*, *I am Woman: A Native Perspective on Sociology and Feminism* and *Bent Box*. She has been widely published in anthologies and scholarly journals and is the co-editor of several anthologies, including the award-winning publication *My Home as I Remember*. Maracle is a member of the Stó:lō Nation and was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2018.

“This year, we received 59 entries – a good portion of them in the Children’s and Fiction categories,” says Cathy Jonasson, Executive Director, Koffler Centre of the Arts. “We are looking forward to hearing the feedback from this year’s distinguished jury, who bring remarkably varied perspectives to the table.”

Submissions have now closed for the 2018 Vine Awards and the shortlist will be announced on September 20<sup>th</sup> this year, with the winners announced at a ceremony at the Windsor Arms in Toronto on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Vine Awards for Canadian Jewish Literature honors the best Jewish Canadian writing in four categories; fiction, non-fiction, history and young adult/children’s literature; each with a prize of \$10,000. The \$10,000 prize for poetry will be awarded again in 2019.

**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. <http://kofflerarts.org/vineawards>

**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.