

**Stories to Savor:
A Presentation by the AJL Jewish Fiction Award Committee
Rachel Kamin, Roz Reisner, Yermiyahu Ahron Taub**

Description: Over one hundred works of fiction with Jewish content are published each year by mainstream, Jewish, and small, independent presses. So many books, so little time! How do we sift through the good, the great, and the not-so-great? How can reading books with Jewish characters and themes help educate, enlighten and inspire us? What are the new trends in the Jewish publishing world? Explore the latest and greatest in Jewish fiction for adult readers with the members of the new AJL Fiction Award Committee and come prepared to share some of your favorite new titles. Our special guest will be the inaugural award winner, Rachel Kadish, who will offer behind-the-scenes insights into the winning work.

Rachel Kamin has been a synagogue librarian for over twenty years and has worked as the Director of the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, IL since 2008. She currently serves on the AJL New Jewish Fiction Award Committee and contributes articles and book reviews to *BookLinks*, *School Library Journal*, *Jewish Book World*, *Judaica Librarianship*, *Library Journal* and *AJL Reviews*. She facilitates the Sisterhood Book Club at NSS Beth El and also leads book discussions at several synagogues and organizations across the Chicago area. Rachel holds a BA in history from Grinnell College and a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Michigan.

Rosalind Reisner is a librarian and the author of *Jewish American Literature: A Guide to Reading Interests* (winner of the 2004 Judaica Reference Award from AJL) and most recently co-editor and contributing author to *Women in the Literary Landscape: A WNBA Centennial Publication* (2017, C&R Press). She has worked in public, academic, and synagogue libraries. From 2010-2014, she chaired the reading committee for the Great Group Reads list of National Reading Group Month titles. Rosalind speaks and writes about Jewish American literature, readers' advisory services, and books for book groups. Her website/blog, <http://areadersplace.net> is a resource for fiction and nonfiction.

Aaron Taub is the Head of the Israel and Judaica Section of the Asian and Middle Eastern Division of the Library of Congress and the President of the Capital Area Chapter of AJL (AJL/CAC). Under the name Yermiyahu Ahron Taub, he is the author of *Prodigal Children in the House of G-d: Stories* (2018) and six books of poetry, including *A moyz tsvishn vakldike volknkratsers: geklibene Yidishe lider/A Mouse Among Tottering Skyscrapers: Selected Yiddish Poems* (2017). His short stories have appeared in *Hamilton Stone Review*, *The Jewish Literary Journal*, *JewishFiction.net*, *Jewrotica*, and *Second Hand Stories Podcast*, among other publications. With Ellen Cassedy, he was the winner of the 2012 Yiddish Book Center Translation Prize for *Oedipus in Brooklyn and Other Stories* by Blume Lempel (Mandel Vilar Press and Dryad Press, 2016). Visit his website at www.yataub.net.