

Famous authors to headline book fair

By Carolyn DeMarco
staff writer

If it's early November, it must be time for the Jewish Book Fair.

The 35th annual Jewish Book Fair, oldest and largest in the country, begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield.

Opening night speaker will be popular novelist Chaim Potok, who has stepped outside his usual genre of fiction with a book about the life and art of Theo Tobiasse titled "Tobiasse: Artist in Exile."

Tobiasse will appear with Potok to autograph the book, and his surrealistic oils and lithos will be on exhibit and sale at the JCC through Nov. 17. (More on the Tobiasse exhibit will be

in Thursday's Creative Living section.)

Twenty-five other authors who are Jewish or have written on Jewish subjects will speak during the nine-day event. All works will be available for sale and autographing.

A schedule of other writer events follows. Unless noted, the events are free.

SUNDAY

- 1 p.m. — Sen. William Cohen, "A Baker's Nickel" — The Maine Republican, who served three years in the U.S. House of Representatives before being elected U.S. senator, is author of his second volume of poetry.
- 2 p.m. — Milton Meltzer, "Jews

in America: A Picture Album" — An adjunct professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, Meltzer has written and illustrated a history for young people.

- 2:30 p.m. — Micha Lev, "Yordim" — Lev will speak in Hebrew on his book about the reverse Exodus, young Jews leaving Israel for America.
- 3:30 p.m. — Dr. Heskel Haddad, "Flight from Babylon" — Haddad recounts the true story of the Jews who fled Babylon in the early 1940s.
- 4:30 p.m. — Sister Carol Rittner, "The Courage to Care" — A consultant to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in Washington, D.C., has written a companion book to the movie of the same name. The book is an account of the rescuers and the survivors in the Holocaust.
- 8 p.m. — Rabbi Daniel Syme, "Finding God" — Syme has published articles in the fields of Christian-Jewish relations, Jewish social action and Jewish education.

TUESDAY, NOV. 11

- 10 a.m. — Gay Courter, "Code Earth" — The filmmaker/novelist's latest book concerns espionage during World War II.
- 1 p.m. — Malgorzata Nizablowka, "Remnants: The Last Jews in Poland" — With photographer Tomasz Tomaszewski, the author has produced a print documentary on the vestiges of Jewish civilization in Poland.
- 8 p.m. — Wolf Blitzer, "Anatomy and Avital Shcharansky: The Journey Home" — Blitzer weaves a tale of marriage and separation, imprisonment, deceptions and the symbols of Soviet Jewry, the Shcharansky's.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12

- 10 a.m. — Faye Kellerman, "The Ritual Bath" — Kellerman presents a portrait of Orthodox Judaism in the continuing adventures of Rina Lazarus and Peter Decker.
- 1 p.m. — Jerome Weidman, "Praying for Rain" — Novelist and playwright Weidman talks about his latest work.
- 8 p.m. — George Will, "The Morning After" — Will is a political commentator on ABC-TV News, and regularly syndicated columnist. He

discusses his observations on the Reagan Era.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

- 10 a.m. — Parichehr Yomtoob, "The Gift of Life" — The book is an accounting of an organ transplant by the mother of a 13-year-old recipient.
- 1 p.m. — Belva Plain, "The Golden Cup" — Plain, who began writing novels at the age of 59, has written four bestsellers. Her latest has been chosen as a main selection by the Literary Guild, Doubleday and Reader's Digest Condensed Books.
- 8 p.m. — Freddie Gershon, "Sweetie, Baby, Cookie, Honey" — The attorney/magician/agent of some super clients is also a producer who tells of 30 years in the music business.

SUNDAY, NOV. 16

- 11 a.m. — Bob Rockaway, "The Jews in Detroit, 1782-1914" — Detroit-born Rockaway has taught at the University of Michigan and more recently Tel-Aviv University. He covers the history, which began with the first Jewish trappers and traders to World War I.
- 1 p.m. — Leonard Wolf, "The Street" — Wolf will speak in Yiddish on his book, which mirrors the chaotic state of eastern Europe in the aftermath of World War II.

Jewish seminar labeled success

The International Federation of Secular Humanistic Jews annual conference, held Oct. 24-26 at the Birmingham Temple, was heralded as a major success by conference leaders.

January 1988 when three regional organizations approved their adherence to the union. These organizations are: the Israel Association for Secular Humanistic Judaism, the Society for Humanistic Judaism of North America, and the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations of North America.

Over 300 delegates from as far as Israel, Europe, Latin America and North America joined together in Farmington Hills "for the purpose of strengthening and promoting a humanistic approach to Judaism and as a major success by conference leaders."

The key event of the conference was the distribution of a proclamation of the International Federation, which lists the commitments and goals of the organization.

The proclamation says, in part: "We believe in the value of Jewish identity and in the survival of the Jewish people. Jewish history is a human story. Judaism, as the civilization of the Jews, is a human creation. Jewish identity is an ethnic reality."

"The civilization of the Jewish people embraces all manifestations of Jewish life, including Jewish languages, ethical traditions, historic memories, cultural heritage, and especially the emergency of the state of Israel in modern times. Judaism also embraces many belief systems and life styles. As the creation of the Jewish people in all ages, it is always changing."

Since January, national groups from both Europe and Latin America have joined the Federation.

During the conference, the first Distinguished Leadership Awards of the International Federation were given to Justice Haim Cohen, a former justice of the Israel Supreme Court and the honorary chairman of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism, and Albert Memmi, an internationally acclaimed author best known for his rejection of the traditional view of Jewish history.

The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism also benefitted from the conference. The Institute, in Jerusalem, is a world center for research and education in the secular approach to Jewish history and Jewish culture.

A concluding statement issued by the new International Federation expressed the support of the movement for all Jewish groups everywhere, and for Israeli groups in particular, in their struggle against religious and nationalistic fanaticism.

The next meeting of the International Federation will be held in Brussels in October 1989.



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