FESTIVAL PREVIEW PULLOUT

28TH EDITION OF THE BOOK FESTIVAL OF THE MJCCA

20-PAGE SECTION
PAGES 17-36

2020 ELECTION

GEORGIA POLITICS GET NATIONAL ATTENTION.

THE LOWDOWN
GET TO KNOW MJCCA'S JARED POWERS.
BOOK FESTIVAL PREVIEW

Book Previews:
Read spotlights by locals of more than half of the books in this year's festival lineup.

'Vern Yip's Vacation at Home' by Vern Yip

Focusing on creating a relaxing, rejuvenating and reenergizing atmosphere at home, HGTV host Vern Yip's latest book emphasizes that feeling overwhelmed when walking in the door at home is avoidable.

Using his years of experience, Yip provides 18 clear, concise methods that allow readers to incorporate his tranquil tips into their own lives. Filled with photographs and step-by-step directions, "Vacation at Home" is both visually pleasing and clear-cut.

Emphasizing that clutter is a common enemy, Yip instructs readers to be honest about their possessions — many of which are likely extraneous. "We tend to be magnets for too much stuff. Assess your stuff and keep only two things: that which you need and things that you love. Release things, donate them and only keep what matters."

At the core of the message, unsurprisingly given the title, is that home should feel like a vacation. It should be the "happiest place on earth," rather than a constant chore, and the tips in Yip's book provide the first steps for making a house feel like home away from home.

Summarized from the AJT's Sept 4, "Trading Spaces' Host Vern Yip at Book Festival" by Robin Spizman Gerson.

'A Field Guide to the Jewish People' by Dave Barry, Adam Mansbach and Alan Zweibel

Written by three loud, loony comedians, "A Field Guide to the Jewish People," addresses some of the countless complicated questions of Judaism through a comedic lens.

Those questions include: Why do random Jewish holidays keep springing up unexpectedly? Why are yarmulkes round? Who was the first Jewish comedian? Or as it says on the book cover: "Where Do They Come From, What to Feed Them, What They Have Against Foreskins, How Come They Carry Each Other Around on Chairs, Why They Fled Egypt by Running Straight to a Large Body of Water, and Much More. Maybe Too Much More."

The book is a laugh-filled read that may provide some insight into the myriad mysteries of the religion, and maybe tell you why Elvis is like Moses.

Summarized from the AJT's Sept 18, "Comedians Will Have You Laughing at the MJCCA" by Marcia Caller Jaffe.
‘Famous Father Girl: A Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein’ by Jamie Bernstein

Preview By Marcia Caller Jaffe

"Famous Father Girl: A Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein" indeed has her fascinating subject outlined in intimate terms growing up as the eldest daughter of composer Leonard Bernstein. But it is hardly a new topic.

I was intrigued by an interview with Mary Rodgers and Alice Hammerstein about growing up amid the creative processes of their famous dads. Better yet, imagine young life growing up with larger-than-life Jewish fathers, sitting on Henry Kissinger’s or Moishe Dayan’s lap.

At the centennial of his birth, Jamie Bernstein is not shy about sharing a complicated look at a charming genius who comes and goes in a quasi-normal way, but not so fast. There was Mike Nichols, Jerome Robbins, Lauren Bacall, and Stephen Sondheim hanging about the house.

Some may not know that Jamie’s famous mother Bernstein’s forgiving wife was accomplished Catholic Chilean actress Felicia Cohn. Or that Bernstein went to Harvard University and palmed around with Jack Kennedy. Most do know that his musical, composing and philanthropic talent resulted in treasured American musical scores such as "West Side Story" in 1957.

The ultimate topic of curiosity is Jamie’s treatment of how the family handled his bisexuality. Jamie does not hold back. "My father was so on, and very much aware of the surrounding admirers, the men who breathed in his eroticism like a scent. It was impossible to have a real conversation with him."

Businessman friend Harry Kraut, Jamie recalled, started the encouragement by exposing LB (her moniker for Dad Lenny) to attractive young men. And then there was the ADHD, bisexual, pot smoking neighbor Mendy Wager, whose father Mayer Wolf Weisgal was national secretary of the Zionist Organization of America, Chaim Weitzmann’s personal political representative in the U.S., and the founder of the Weitzmann Institute of Science.

On the subject of valuing Judaism, Jamie said, "My father’s way of being religious was quite personal. He seemed mainly to explore it through his reading and music. So maybe his own kids’ indifference didn’t bother him too much (we hoped)."

Dad LB was raunchy, amusing, critical, chain-smoking, at times drug addicted, and always teaching a lesson. He loved old-fashioned corny Jewish jokes that the family termed "treasured heirlooms that together comprise a collection of human wisdom more precious than gold." Talk about complicated.

"Famous Father Girl" is a gossipy kaleidoscope that makes one ponder if growing up in a famous family is neither easy nor charmed. But yes, it’s a helluva good read.

The book will be featured at the Prologue to the Book Festival of the MJCCA 8 p.m. Oct. 26.

‘Is There Still Sex in the City?’ by Candace Bushnell

Preview by Jen Evans
From the pioneering New York Times best-selling author Candace Bushnell, who brought us “Sex and the City,” comes her new book, “Is There Still Sex in the City?” This is an amusing observation of dating as a newly single divorcé in her 50s. It’s also a guidebook of sorts, sprinkled with tales of her many single 50-something friends, friends of friends and acquaintances.

She tells what it’s like to go on dating apps such as Tinder as a 50-something divorcé, “Cubbing” (dating a much younger guy) and trying to navigate the dating world again after thinking she had already found her happily ever after guy.

While Bushnell doesn’t bring back Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte or Samantha, she brings in a whole new group of gal pals. Set between the Upper East Side of Manhattan and a country enclave known as The Village, “Is There Still Sex in the City?” follows an array of female friends – Sassy, Kitty, Queenie, Tilda Tia, Marilyn and Candace – as they deal with the ups and downs of dating and relationships at their ages.

Not only are the characters different, but Bushnell has also switched her beverage of choice from cosmos to rosé wine. I suggest having a glass or two while you read it; just make sure you’re not laughing at the same time!

This book is a quick and fun read. I recommend it to anyone out there who is over 40 and single. And for anyone looking for a good laugh and to not feel so alone in the dating world. Maybe this Bushnell book will spark a new television series or movie. One can only hope!

The book will be featured at A Prologue to the Book Festival at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 27.

'Alien Superstar' by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver

Preview by Robyn Spizman Gerson

Henry Winkler’s credits span decades and it’s no surprise that his creativity knows no boundaries. An accomplished Emmy Award-winning actor, writer, director and producer, he will forever be known as the 1970s “Happy Days” American sitcom’s star Arthur “Fonzie” Fonzie. The Fonz had us all at hello and his effervescent personality mixed with his teen idol charm was irresistible.

While that throwback image of Winkler is embedded in many of our memories and certainly television pop culture history, today’s kids will now remember Winkler for his Buddy Burger character and Buddy’s wild and whimsical adventures. Winkler teams up with Lin Oliver, a children’s book writer and producer, who is currently the executive director of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. They collaborated to bring Buddy to life.

When 13-year-old Buddy Burger flees from his alien planet, he crash-lands where else? The backlot at Universal, of course, why not? Sounds reasonable for an alien, right? The ironic issue, though, is that no one is really caught off guard to see this six-eyed alien strolling around the lot. He’s immediately considered an everyday super cool occurrence as he lands a spot in the limelight. The only difference is he’s actually an alien, in other words, a real one, not an actor dressed as one.

As the tables turn and he’s discovered, Buddy is cast in a popular TV show as an
alien. This overnight sensation learns what it’s like to be a TV star. He discovers what he has in common with celebrities as well as what he does not. As the pages turn and the story unfolds, Buddy is delightfully entertaining and also not so sure about the glitz and glamour of Hollywood. This clever gem of a book takes its readers along a creative, full of fun, antic-filled journey as Hollywood meets outer space.

“Alien Superstar” is deliciously suited for kids who love a book filled with fantasy, reality and semi-catastrophes. Buddy is loveable and delightful, as is Winkler, who spins a tale that’s memorable. Super stardom is Winkler’s signature style. Two thumbs up for The Fonz’s latest book for young readers (and older ones, like me, alike).

The book will be featured on opening night, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 30 in conversation with CNN journalist Holly Firfer.

‘Bitcoin Billionaires: A True Story of a Genius’ by Ben Mezrich

Preview by Nicholas Bonell

"Bitcoin Billionaires" is the latest addition to Ben Mezrich’s impressive nonfiction bibliography, which features best-selling titles such as "Bringing Down the House" and "The Accidental Billionaires," each later being adapted into the Hollywood blockbusters "21" and "The Social Network," respectively. This story details the triumphs and tribulations identical twins and Olympic athletes Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss traverse, beginning at the end of a long-lasting mediation with former “friend” and world-famous CEO Mark Zuckerberg over a Facebook-related dispute dating back to their tenure at Harvard University.

Though its outcome proved beneficial, in some ways, to the ambitious duo, their attempt to invest in Sand Hill startups afterwards was hugely lackluster, due to bad blood between them and Zuckerberg. However, one night on the Spanish island of Ibiza, the pair’s luck seemed to turn around, as they were approached by a mysterious and enthusiastic character, who claimed to have his foot in the door on a revolutionary new investment called cryptocurrency.

After returning to New York, Tyler and Cameron were contacted by their Ibiza friend, and soon introduced to their life-changing business partner Charlie Shrem, a Jewish Bronx native and eccentric CEO of BitInstant.

This book offers readers both a compelling story arch, filled with drama, doubt and determination, along with a simple explanation to the background and workings of the bitcoin currency system. In addition, this novel sheds light on the misconception the general public has towards the brothers, redefining the identities of the Winklevoss twins, and redeeming Mezrich’s poor analysis of these men in a previous work. All in all, a fun, fery, fantastic read.

The book will be featured at 8 p.m. Nov. 2 in conversation with Nadia Bilchik, CNN editorial producer and best-selling author.

‘Beautiful on The Outside’ by Adam Rippon

Preview by Marita Anderson

Adam Rippon describes wanting to be the Amy Schumer of the sports world. From the first page of
"Beautiful on the Outside," he delivers. Rippon is laugh- out-loud funny, raw and irreverent.

No subject is off-limits in his memoir as he takes his readers on the rollercoaster ride of his life as a competitive ice skater. From a very young age, he has dealt with stress through humor, asking his mom to tell him jokes so he didn’t cry when she dropped him off at school. That survival tactic has stayed with him, and readers will benefit from his well-honed passion for entertaining.

Most people imagine the lives of elite athletes as filled with hard work and discipline. What Rippon describes cuts much deeper into the reality of sacrifice, dogged determination, and financial cost that often outweighs the benefits of winning prizes.

For much of his teenage years, Rippon lived away from home, staying with friends and coaches to accommodate the needs of his training schedule. His family, with five siblings at home, stretched beyond their limits to support his life as a competitive ice skater and his dream of going to the Olympics. It is truly an endeavor not for the faint of heart.

The difficult personalities of Rippon’s various coaches, some of whom came from the former Soviet Union and retained the quirks of their cultural upbringing, come to life on the pages of the book. For the most part, Rippon’s account is full of gratitude to the people who helped him along the way, and he seems to find the silver lining even in the toughest moments.

Rippon made headlines as he became the first openly gay athlete to make the U.S. Winter Olympic team and the first to win a medal at the Winter Games. He has become an outspoken human rights activist and his memoir is worth reading as he delves into the complexity of coming out on the big stage.

---

The book will be featured at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3 in conversation with CNN journalist Holly Firfer.

‘Cilka’s Journey: A Novel’ by Heather Morris

Preview by Terry Segal

“Cilka’s Journey,” written by Heather Morris, best-selling author of “The Tattooist of Auschwitz,” is a powerful, deeply moving story that views the Holocaust from the women’s perspective.

It’s based on the experiences of Cecilia “Cilka” Klein, a beautiful, 16-year-old girl at the time she entered that hell. In addition to her skills and steadfast courage, her mind’s ability to survive beyond the most atrocious and unfathomable horrors of the Holocaust was responsible for her endurance through years of savage brutality.

In both books, Morris did an exquisite job of focusing on the power of love, set in the soul-crushing background of the concentration camps. She was sought out as a non-Jewish writer, by Lale Sokolow, to tell her story as the Slovakian Jewish prisoner who survived by becoming the tattooist of Auschwitz.

Morris provides a vital degree of separation in her telling of their stories, that allows us to keep reading. Knowing upfront that Lale, his love Gita, and their friend Cilka survived, gives us the courage to imagine their pain, as we come to care for each one of them deeply.

Watching Holocaust films in my youth was traumatic. As a result, I avoided the...
topic as an adult, fearing I'd fall down the rabbit hole of despair. Through a string of synchronicities, however, and being ever reverent of those who experienced the Holocaust, I read "The Tattooist of Auschwitz."

Morris wrote "Cilka's Journey" next, through Lale's account, along with Gita's firsthand knowledge of what transpired in the women's block.

The startling contrast between what stresses people today versus what those prisoners endured not so long ago, puts things in a perspective that needs to be realized. These outstanding books should be required reading for students, their parents and all adults.

*The book will be featured at noon Nov 4 in conversation with freelance writer Victoria Cornell.*

**'Invisible as Air' by Zoe Fishman**

Preview by Roni Robbins

Atlanta author Zoe Fishman certainly knows about coping with trauma, which is the theme of her newest novel, "Invisible as Air." While pitching the book to her publisher in 2017, Fishman's husband of eight years, Ronen Shacham, died of a brain aneurysm, leaving her with two young sons. Then, while fine tuning the book earlier this year, her father died of heart failure.

The three characters in "Invisible as Air," Fishman's fifth novel, deal with their shared trauma over the loss of a child/sister in their own ways, mostly involving addictive or obsessive behavior.

Local readers, like myself, will empathize with this middle-class Jewish family as they struggle to find solace in the face of the death while practicing a number of Jewish rituals — a yahrzeit, a bar mitzvah — and going about their daily lives amidst 70-degree weather in February and Atlanta traffic. There are also mentions of popular local landmarks such as the Georgia Aquarium and Cumberland Island.

Even if we can't relate to the death at the center of the trauma or some of the harmful behaviors the characters develop, we can feel the loss that pits parents against each other, suffering from a lack of communication that also alienates the surviving child. The three are looking for an escape from each other and the trauma, turning in to themselves, keeping their secrets, in essence to become "Invisible as Air," like the missing relative whose memory constantly haunts them.

The chapters of the book alternate between the points of views of the characters, offering an interesting, individual perspective, while allowing us to relate to each one separately and together.

*This book will be featured at 12 p.m. Nov 5.*

**'She Said' by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey**

Preview by Marita Anderson

Page 7 of 17
“She Said” is more than an inside look into the outstanding investigative reporting by two Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, which is fascinating in its own right. What Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey have presented in this best-seller is a birds-eye perspective on the #MeToo movement and a commentary on one of the most painful issues of our generation.

They have mapped out the disturbing patterns of sexual harassment and its enablers, using the Harvey Weinstein chronicle of systemic and egregious abuse of women as a starting point for a much larger conversation.

What becomes clear in the pages of “She Said” is that we are locked in a legal system that silences women by offering pay-outs and non-disclosure agreements as the best recourse for sexual abuse in the workplace.

A whole cottage industry of attorneys have benefitted from secret corporate settlements that make it nearly impossible for the women to speak about their cases. Kantor and Twohey describe their tenacious investigative work to get around the obstacles of long-buried cases and the threatening tactics of the powerful men involved.

The book includes a detailed account of Christine Blasey Ford's path to Senate testimony in which she describes being assaulted by Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh when they were both in high school. We get to know Ford and her motivations to speak out in a way that was entirely missed in the hullabaloo of the proceedings.

“She Said” offers a voice to countless women whose stories of objectifying and dehumanizing sexual abuse have not been heard. Their mocking caricature as opportunists begins to fall away, giving us better understanding and deeper empathy for the women's courageous decisions to come forward.

The book is a necessary reckoning that breaks silence and sheds light on a possible way forward. It is a must read for men and women alike.

The book will be featured at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 5 in conversation with Kim Severson, Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times bureau chief in Atlanta.

‘Extracted: Unmasking Rampant Antisemitism in America’s Higher Education’ by Perry Brickman

Preview by Bob Bahr

Atlanta dentist Perry Brickman was 74 when in 2006 he first began what would become an obsessive quest to uncover the history of anti-Semitism at the Emory University Dental School in the 1950s.

His journey of discovery took 13 years of research through old and often obscure records, but what he found was documentation of how the dean of the school had purposely ended the careers of Jewish dental school students between 1948 and 1961. Emory was slow to acknowledge the problem, but eventually forced the dean to resign and pressured the Jewish community in Atlanta to keep the matter quiet.

Tracking down the records and interviewing some important players in what had become a long-forgotten drama was not an easy task. But what was often more difficult was to persuade the students, who had been the object of discrimination, to talk.

“Extracted,” the title of Perry Brickman’s book, might also be a good way to describe how he had to deal with the silence that greeted his efforts to get the old stu-
dents to speak out and to finally accept that they hadn't really failed academically. "The dental students who had been flunked out couldn't talk about it, until, in fact, when I approached them," he told me recently. "It was the shame, for sure, and the fear of how their family and friends would react."

But Brickman's quest was ultimately successful. In 2012, Emory issued a public apology for the wrongs of the past and later honored Brickman with its highest award for service to the school.

This book is an important testament to the healing power that results when the fearful silence of the past is broken, and truth, no matter how painful, is faced fully and honestly.

The book will be featured at noon Nov. 6 in conversation with Gail Evans, former executive vice president of CNN and a bestselling author. The event includes a reception sponsored by the AJT.

'A Passion to Serve: Memoirs of a Jewish Activist' by Sherry Z. Frank

Preview by Bob Bahr

Sherry Frank's gracious and grateful memoir, "A Passion to Serve," is the best introduction anyone could have to the important issues of the Atlanta Jewish community over the last half century.

Frank ran the American Jewish Committee in Atlanta from 1980 to 2006 and was at the National Council of Jewish Women before that. She was at the center of so many of the causes that moved the community.

She writes with authority and firsthand knowledge of the AJC's work to found and establish the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, to create the genetic screening program that later became IScreen at Emory University, to establish the Black-Jewish Coalition of the AJC and to promote the interreligious and interracial work of the organization in this city.

"I want my grandkids to know I fought the good fight, that one of the strengths of the American Jewish Committee is to stay with the issue for the long haul," she said when we spoke recently.

There are 18 chapters, in part, to link her story to the Hebrew word for life that has a numerical value of 18. Each one tackles a different subject that reflects Frank's passion as a Jewish community leader and activist. They provide rich documentary source materials for those interested in how important community issues have arisen and how progress is made in a city that is as large and diverse as the one we live in.

Frank spent a year, with the expert help of Diana Silverman, poring over local and national archives, and another year tracking down individuals whose permission was necessary to include their writings in the book. The result is a work we can all gain so much from reading. Not only to give us a better understanding of Atlanta's past, but of the progressive city Frank worked so hard to help create.

The book will be featured at noon Nov. 6 in conversation with Gail Evans, former executive vice president of CNN and a bestselling author. A reception will be sponsored by the AJT.

'Loving Out Loud: The Power of a Kind Word' by Robyn Spizman

New York Times best-selling author Robyn Spizman's
newest book is a tribute to her parents and the love they shared with everyone around them. In this case, "Loving Out Loud" describes the importance of sharing love openly and proudly to brighten up the lives of oneself and others.

Summarizing the three messages of her book in a few words, Spizman said, "Lift up, show up and never give up." Including lessons for parents and grandparents, she shares her own experiences and anecdotes to provide examples to others of how to adopt her message of loving-kindness. Spizman aims to redirect from the one-click, rapid-fire communication possible in the social media age to more meaningful, thoughtful conversations where emotion can be shared.

Well known for her gift-giving acumen, Spizman also includes advice for creating meaningful traditions and giving unforgettable gifts that make recipients feel "treasured."

"Loving out loud is about the little things we can do to make a big impact," she said.

Summarized from the AJT’s Aug. 28, "New Book Demonstrates Loving Loudly" by Marcia Caller Jaffe

The book will be featured at 10 a.m. Nov. 7.

‘The Legacy of Anne Frank’ by Gillian Walnes Perry

Preview by Fran M. Putney

With at least 70 translations of ‘The Diary of Anne Frank,” millions have been touched by the journal kept by the Jewish teen in hiding with her family in an Amsterdam office building attic from July 1942 to August 1944 in an effort to survive the Holocaust. It is Anne’s keen insight about human nature and unwavering messages of hope, despite her youth, dire circumstances and the sad irony that she did not survive, that continue to speak to so many.

In "The Legacy of Anne Frank," author Gillian Walnes Perry offers an array of stories describing the many ways in which people around the world have been influenced by Anne Frank’s words and story. Perry details the history of how Anne’s legacy grows from Otto Frank's decision to first publish his daughter's diary in 1947 to the public opening of the hiding place in May 1960 as the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam as a museum and educational center.

By 1985, the traveling exhibition “Anne Frank in the World” (a version of which is permanently displayed in Sandy Springs) began to bring Anne’s story, within the greater context of the Holocaust, everywhere from Bangladesh to British prisons. To many who learn about her, Anne is a symbol of hope and inspires discussion about tolerance.

An educator from the Anne Frank House observed: “Anne Frank has a particular appeal to young people in Latin America who have suffered at some point from prejudice and discrimination. Her story is used as an example of a young person like them who demonstrated strength and resilience in very difficult and threatening situations.”
Among the many unique stories, Perry shares how former South Africa President Nelson Mandela found inspiration in reading the diary during his long imprisonment. Another chapter explains the role the “Anne Frank in the World” exhibition played in helping people in newly independent countries from the former Soviet Union transition from Communism.

“The Legacy of Anne Frank” is an educational and inspiring read in itself, concluding with a discussion of Anne’s relevance for future generations.

_The book will be featured at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 7._

*On the Run in Nazi Berlin* by Bev Saltzman Lewyn

Capturing her father-in-law’s escape from Nazi Germany, Congregation Beth Jacob member Bev Saltzman Lewyn’s new and updated edition of her book first published in 2001 includes new research to fill in the gaps in the shocking story.

As opposed to many other Holocaust memoirs, Dagobert ‘Bert’ Lewyn, “was never in a concentration camp, nor was he hidden in one place,” she said.

Instead he was in Berlin the entire war, doing whatever it took to survive and mirroring as much a “Hollywood action film” as anything else. The book, originally planned to take a few months, took Lewyn more than seven years to write, as more twists in the tales began to appear, including a forgotten second family in Germany.

The new edition of the book contains added information about Gunther Gerson, a man with whom Bert shared many wild adventures during the war, as well as Bert’s parents and his first wife, Ilse. It also includes added photographs of Berlin locations where Bert lived and worked during the war.

While Bert is no longer alive, the book tells the story of an unquestionably, “clever, charming, smart and hard-working,” man, according to Lewyn.

_Summarized from the AJT’s March 6, “Lewyn Reveals Unusual Story of Escape, Loss, Discovery” by Marcia Caller Jaffe_

_The book will be featured at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 7._

**BOOK FESTIVAL PREVIEW**

*The World That We Knew: A Novel* by Alice Hoffman

Preview by Sheri Okun

Alice Hoffman brings us on a journey of exploration in the life of a girl, her friend’s father—a rabbi—and others, as the girl is sent out of Nazi territory by her mother in an ultimate sacrifice to save her.

In true Hoffman fashion, we learn about magic—not magic tricks or hoodoo—but the magic that this rabbi, The Magician, and his family teach, using the tools and signs provided by the heavens to navigate difficult, even treacherous terrain. Not only a tale of good versus evil, but of recognizing which is which, and Hoffman sets out early in the novel to highlight what becomes the lesson.

“That was how evil spoke. It made its own corrupt
sense; it swore that good were evil, and that evil had come
to save mankind. It brought up ancient fears and scattered them on the street like
pearls. To fight what was wicked, magic and faith were needed. This was what one
must turn to when there was no other option."

This beautiful novel embodies purity, love, loss and faith, and concurrently dem-
onstrates that G-d cannot prevent all loss. Deep lessons are learned, soulmates are
found, and destiny unfolds. This stunning novel tears at the heart and brings forth the
depth of human empathy, emotion and compassion in its readers.

The book will be featured at 3:30 p.m. Nov 10 in conversation with Greg Changnon,
playwright and former columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

'Shuk: From Market to Table, the Heart of Israeli Home Cook-
ing' by Einat Admony and Janna Gur

Preview by Marcia Caller Jaffe

It's a wild, ribboned highway out there awash with colorful, mouthwatering cookbooks, and “Shuk”
is no exception. These two female culinary experts combine to publish almost 400 pages of bright pho-
tos of pomegranates, pistachios coming alive, orange peel bursting, beet latkes sizzling and stuffed onions
luscious in these recipes galore.

The title bounces off what's inside: descriptions of real Middle East shuks: open air mazes with restaur-
ants mingled among the food for sale from Old Akko to Carmel. With shuk-like vibes, chiles, amba (mango
relish), feta, so many exotic spices combine with rose water, baharat, hawaij, and filfel (not falafel, but
peppers). Some would claim the more unusual, the better.

Israel has always been in the eye of discussion about what is truly Israeli versus a mélange of Yemenite (breads), Persian (rice), Moroccan (tagines), and even Bukhar-
ian and Ethiopian, anywhere from which we wandered, emigrated and landed at Ben
Gurion Airport.

Many restaurants are trending menus now mirroring food that is served at the
family table at home.

Admony and Gur do not disappoint. The former is chef and owner of Balaboosta,
Kish-Kash and Taim restaurants in New York City and lives in Brooklyn.

Gur was born in Riga, Latvia, and is now the founder of Al Hashulchan, the premi-
er Israeli food and wine magazine. She has published nearly 40 cookbooks and
lives in Tel Aviv.

The book is categorized easily: Obsession with tahina and chickpeas, salad, soups,
chicken, vegetable heroes, dairy and eggs, rice, katzir, the flavor of fire, couscous,
breads, and sweet endings.

Danny Meyer, founder of Union Square Hospitality Group stated on the book
cover, "So much more than a cookbook, 'Shuk' is a transporting adventure through Is-
rael's spirited markets, sun drenched seasons, and delicious intercultural exchanges." So,
at the same time, we learn a lot about culture, and just what is Doro Wot?

Practical Shuk Tips
Warning: If someone asks, “Do you want Hareef?” Super hot and spicy! Be careful!
Wait until you get to the market to decide what the recipe should be. Tomatoes and cucumbers are most important. If they're not top quality, don't compromise, switch ingredients. Taste as you go at the market. Respond to the character of your ingredients.

Similar to timing shopping at a grocery store, do not read this book hungry!

This book will be featured at noon Nov 13 in conversation with Ligaça Figueras, Food and Dining senior editor for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. A kosher lunch is included.

'The CF Warrior Project: 65 Stories of Triumph Against Cystic Fibrosis' by Andy Lipman

Sandy Springs resident Andy Lipman outlived the 40-year life expectancy for Americans with cystic fibrosis five years ago, and his book chronicles the lives of other survivors.

The disease, which is also common in the Jewish community, affects more than 30,000 people in the U.S. alone and around 1,000 new cases are diagnosed each year. This book aims to provide a very human face to some of the people living with the disease.

The number 65 is based on the way children are often taught to pronounce the disease, "65 roses." Among those 65 are a woman who has scaled Mount Everest, a circus acrobat, and a fighter who secured approval for breakthrough CF drugs in Ireland.

Lipman's fourth book, "The CF Warrior Project" involved interviewing more than 500 people around the world, and while only a handful could be featured, Lipman has plans to include more of those interviews in a future release.

"Now in my mid-40s, I thought a book about people living longer with cystic fibrosis was necessary and long overdue," said the author. "I'm not just talking about people who are living their lives, but people who are also accomplishing amazing things while doing so."

'How to Fight Anti-Semitism' by Bari Weiss

Preview by Dave Schechter
Bari Weiss is a daughter of Pittsburgh, of Squirrel Hill, the heavily Jewish neighborhood that is home to the Tree of Life synagogue.

The pain she felt after the Oct. 27, 2018, massacre of 11 worshippers at the three congregations that shared the Tree of Life building was evident in the columns she wrote afterward.

Weiss, a staff writer and opinion section editor at The New York Times, has blended history, current events and personal perspective in "How to Fight Anti-Semitism." The book, which released in mid-September, has garnered considerable attention, particularly in publications with Jewish audiences.

Readers may want to bypass the numerous reviews and judge for themselves whether Weiss has correctly assigned responsibility for the proliferation of anti-Semitism in the United States and offered viable responses to what is known as the oldest hatred.

The U.S. Justice Department has said it will seek the death penalty for the alleged Tree of Life gunman, Robert Bowers, who has been charged with dozens of counts, including criminal homicide, aggravated assault and ethnic intimidation.

Before the killings, Bowers had posted on social media: "HIAS [Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society] likes to bring invaders in that kill our people. I can't sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I'm going in."

Inside the synagogue, the gunman declared his desire to "kill Jews."

"Those words would woke me up to the fact that I had spent much of my life on a holiday from history," Weiss writes.

America, she says, "has been, even with all of its ugly flaws, a New Jerusalem for the Jewish people." Nonetheless, "... the Jews of America, thinking ourselves a diaspora apart, have lost their - our - instinct for danger."

Weiss sees danger coming from multiple ends of the political spectrum. "We are living in an era in which the center is not only not holding, it is bending toward and being distorted by the extremes on both the ethnonationalist right and the anticolonialist left," while "the lunatic fringe has gone mainstream, a process aided andabetted by our politicians and spread like a virus by regular Americans on social media," she writes.

In this environment, Jews "are forced to make grave compromises to fit into political tribes or remain politically homeless. We are pitted against one another by people who deem only some of us 'good Jews,' worthy of trust and acceptance."

Israel frequently is at the root of discussions of anti-Semitism. "I am not saying that criticizing Israeli policy is anti-Semitic. Not in the least. Just as I believe that a crucial part of being an American patriot is not just defending America but insisting that it live up to its promise, part of being a Zionist means calling Israel to account when it falls short," Weiss writes.

A page later she adds, "You can suggest that the current policies of the Jewish state betray Jewish values. You can claim that contemporary Zionist is not what our ancestors would have embraced. But you cannot erase the clear line of Jewish history that leads the Jewish people back to that land."

No amount of protesting, complaining or explaining will make anti-Semitism go away, Weiss decides. Rather, "we fight by waging an affirmative battle for who we are. By entering the fray for our values, for our ideas, for our ancestors, for our families, for our communities, for the generations that will come after us."

When she spoke in Atlanta in November 2018 at the Jewish National Fund's annual Jack Hirsch Memorial Breakfast, Weiss served up a list of "seven dirty words in the Jewish world... words that signify values that are not being inculcated in young people, topics that we assiduously avoid, and debates that we are too cowardly to have."
In "How to Fight Anti-Semitism," Weiss has waded deep into those debates.

The book will be featured at 8 p.m. Nov. 16, in a conversation with local radio talk show host Dana Barrett.

'Conquered: The Inside Story of Atlanta United's Magical Run' by I.J. Rosenberg

Preview by Dave Schechter

Fans of Atlanta United FC who pick up "Conquered: The Inside Story Of Atlanta United's Magical Run" may be tempted to focus on the glossy color photographs, but the story it tells will interest even those who have followed the team closely.

To the credit of its author, I.J. Rosenberg, "Conquered" is full of absorbing behind-the-scenes information, gathered from interviews with team owner Arthur Blank, team president Darren Eales, and others on the sporting and business ends of the operation. The title is drawn from the team’s motto: “Unite and Conquer.”

At the book festival Nov. 17, Rosenberg and Eales will discuss Atlanta United’s past, present, and future in a conversation with sports broadcast reporter Ashley Rose, I.J.’s daughter, who appears on the enormous Mercedes-Benz Stadium halo screens as a host at Atlanta United games.

From the outside, it appeared that most everything Atlanta United did before and during its first two seasons worked. The atmosphere at the team’s first game, on March 5, 2017, in front of 55,297 fans at Bobby Dodd Stadium (MLS still not being ready) was electric.

Blank – excuse me, Uncle Arthur, as the fans serenade him – Eales, et al, put an attractive product on the field (aggressive up-tempo play), created an enjoyable experience for the fans (including those low concession prices), and developed a business model different from much of Major League Soccer (buying young players, not older stars near the end of their careers).

The proof of the pudding came Dec. 8, 2018, when Atlanta United defeated the Portland Timbers 2-0 to win the MLS Cup, the league championship, before an announced crowd at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium of 73,019. (The attendance at Atlanta United home games was just one aspect that attracted interest from media around the world.)

Atlanta United not only delivered a title in its second season, but in a relatively short period, wove itself into the city’s fabric, becoming as much a cultural phenomenon as a sporting franchise. That kind of success required as much ground-up consideration of a diverse fan base as it did the top-down assembly of a front office, coaching staff and player roster.

This year’s MLS Cup will be played one week before Rosenberg and Eales appear at the book festival. As the defending champions come toward the end of a challenging third season (its outcome still to be determined when this article was written), their fans will appreciate all the more the individual parts that formed the whole, making up the story told in “Conquered: The Inside Story Of Atlanta United’s Magical Run.”

The book will be featured at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 17 with Eales in conversation with Rose.

'The Book of Gutsy Women' by Hillary Rodham Clinton and
Chelsea Clinton
Preview by Jan Jaben-Eilon

Former First Daughter Chelsea Clinton and former First Lady and the 2016 Democratic Party nominee for president Hillary Rodham Clinton have co-written a book that would make a perfect gift for any girl becoming a bat mitzvah.

“The Book of Gutsy Women: Favorite Stories of Courage and Resilience” inspires, educates and encourages women of any age to “stand up to the status quo,” as the epilogue concludes.

What makes this book particularly appropriate for young women is that the chapters are short, the biographies of these chosen gutsy women are concise, and the two authors take turns explaining what these women – living or long dead – meant to them. The book captures the stories of dozens of women, some of whom will be familiar to all readers, while introducing others that are not.

As the foreword explains, “We are living through a time of upheaval and tumult around the globe, but we’re also living in an era of gutsy women from all walks of life.”

Two of those gutsy women, the Clintons, will conclude the book festival in a presentation that was sold out within 24 hours.

The Clintons explain in their book introduction why they felt the need to write this book. “Power has largely been associated with – and defined by – men since the beginning of time. Yet women have painted, written, created, discovered, invented and led for just as long. It’s simply that their work is more likely to go unrecognized – sometimes for centuries. We believe it is past time for that to change.”

Older readers of this book, who grew up enamored with strong female characters, will be particularly drawn to the Clintons’ reactions to stories they read as girls. Character standouts were Jo March from Louisa May Alcott’s “Little Women,” Meg Murray in Madeleine L’Engle’s “A Wrinkle in Time,” and the Nancy Drew detective series.

Although the book is divided into sections for women who are or were Explorers & Inventors, such as Marie Curie, Hedy Lamarr and Sally Ride, or Healers such as Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton (founder of the Ameri-
can Red Cross), many outstanding women are also noted under Early Inspirations, including Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, Maria von Trapp and Anne Frank.

The bottom line of this book is that women have a right to reach for their dreams. What better message can be shared with young women?

The book will be featured at the festival closing event 6:30 p.m. Nov. 18 in conversation with Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, president and dean of Morehouse School of Medicine.