

JEWISH BOOK WEEK

28 FEB – 8 MAR

26⁷⁵
YEARS

LONDON | ONLINE

JEWISH
LITERARY
FOUNDATION

Festival information

BOOKING ONLINE EVENTS

For online events, visit jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk/jewish-book-week. Online events are free to attend on Zoom. Links will be sent to ticketholders following registration.

BOOKING EVENTS AROUND LONDON

For events around London, visit jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk/jewish-book-week. Events are individually priced and tickets will be sent via email following registration.

BOOKING LIVE EVENTS AT KINGS PLACE

For live events at Kings Place, book at kingsplace.co.uk/jbw or call the Kings Place Box Office on 020 7520 1440. The Box Office is open Mon-Fri 12.30-5pm and from two hours prior to an event.

Transaction Fee and Building Levy Fee

A Transaction Fee of 12.5% will be applied to your booking, up to a maximum charge of £6. This fee is to cover Box Office administrative costs so that Kings Place Music Foundation can continue to support its artists, programme, learning, and participation work. A £1 Building Levy is applied to each order, the proceeds of which go towards maintaining and improving Kings Place performance spaces and facilities.

If you have already made a booking for Jewish Book Week 2026 and would like to purchase additional tickets, we recommend contacting the Box Office and quoting your order number. By adding tickets to an existing order, the Box Office team can ensure that your total fees do not exceed the maximum charge of £6 Transaction Fee and £1 Building Levy.

Additional orders made online will be automatically subject to fees. **Fees do not apply to purchases made in person at the Box Office.** Kings Place Friends are exempt from all booking fees.

TICKET DELIVERY

When booking tickets online, you can update the ticket delivery option to select post, collection, or e-tickets. Please note that no online events can be booked via Kings Place.

E-Tickets

If you select e-tickets, you will receive your PDF tickets three days prior to the event start date, via email. If you have booked multiple events, you will receive tickets for each individual event separately. There is no fee for e-ticket delivery.

Post

If you select post, your tickets will be printed and posted to your address. This is subject to a postage fee of £3 per order. To ensure sufficient delivery time, post will be paused as a delivery option from Monday 16 February.

Collection

If you select collection, your tickets will be printed ready for you to collect from the Box Office when you arrive at Jewish Book Week 2026. This is subject to a printing fee of £1.50 per order.

Tickets purchased in person at the Box Office can be printed physically at the time of booking at no additional cost.

Refunds and Resales

All tickets for events at Kings Place are non-refundable and non-exchangeable.

If a performance is sold out and you would like to return your tickets, please contact the

Kings Place Box Office to enquire about resale options. In the event of a successful resale, you will receive a Kings Place credit voucher for the face value of the tickets (booking fees excluded), less an additional £1.50 resale fee per ticket. Credit vouchers are valid for ticketing purchases made within 18 months of the issue date.

Kings Place reserves the right to make alterations to the advertised programme. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, a performance is cancelled or abandoned when less than half the performance has taken place, a refund (booking fees excluded) will be provided.

HOW TO FIND US

Kings Place is located at **90 York Way, London N1 9AG.**

Train/tube: 8 min walk from Kings Cross St Pancras station

Buses: 390, 10, 17, 30, 45, 46, 59, 63, 73, 91, 205, 214, 259 and 476

Parking: Nearest public car park is at St Pancras International Station. Kings Place has no public parking. Blue Badge parking is available on Crinan Street.

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CONCESSIONS & DISCOUNTS

£5 tickets are available for audience members aged under 30.

Concessions are available for audience members on income support. For concessions, contact info@jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk

A 15% discount is available when booking tickets for three or more events in one transaction.

SECURITY

Your safety is a priority for the Jewish Literary Foundation and Kings Place. Please arrive at least 45 minutes before your event to allow time to pass through security.

Bag Policy: All bags brought to the venue will be subject to checks by security personnel. You will be permitted to take one small bag (40 x 20 x 25cm or smaller) into the venue. If your bag is larger than this or you have multiple bags, we advise you to check it in to luggage storage at Kings Cross station. There is no facility to store large bags at the venue.

STAY UP TO DATE

For full, up-to-date event details, visit our website. All details correct at time of printing. jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk/jewish-book-week

With thanks to our generous sponsors

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Welcome to Jewish Book Week 2026



This year, we mark Jewish Book Week's 75th festival. At its heart, it remains a place where our community gathers to explore ideas that are bold, challenging, joyful, and deeply rooted in the Jewish literary tradition. As we reach this milestone, first envisioned by Dr George Webber in 1952, I thank everyone whose support has carried us here.

I warmly invite you to explore these pages and discover the many treasures of this anniversary edition, reflecting the distinctive quality that has defined Jewish Book Week: thoughtfully curated conversations shaped by curiosity and passion.

Our 75th festival is our most ambitious yet. Over nine days, more than 160 speakers and performers – including Booker Prize winners, historians, novelists, musicians, actors, emerging writers and playwrights, journalists, and scholars – join us. Alongside our home at Kings Place, we host pop-up events across London, including the British Museum, British Library, and Bridge Theatre, as well as an extensive free online programme.

I know you will find conversations that inspire, challenge, and move you. At a time when Jewish life feels threatened around the world, let Jewish Book Week be a beacon for everything rich, diverse, resilient, and magnificent about the Jewish experience.

Thank you for joining us in this very special year.

Claudia Rubenstein
Director

LIVE AT KINGS PLACE

SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY 7.45 – 9.30PM

Join us for our 75th Festival Celebration

JEWISH
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YEARS



Jewish Book Week at 75: A Celebration

The George Webber Memorial Event

Bradley Creswick | **Margaret Fingerhut**
Howard Jacobson | **Claudia Roden**
Simon Schama | **Chair: Hugo Rifkind**

Celebrate the 75th edition of London's longest-running – and many would say best! – literary festival with words and music. In conversation with **Hugo Rifkind**, guests include three of Jewish Book Week's favourite speakers – **Howard Jacobson**, **Claudia Roden**, and Sir **Simon Schama**, all at school when the festival began in 1952. Opening the evening, internationally renowned pianist **Margaret Fingerhut** MBE and violinist **Bradley Creswick**, Leader Emeritus of Royal Northern Sinfonia will perform works by George Gershwin, Fanny Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn, Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Henryk Wieniawski and Ernest Bloch.

7.45–9.30pm Tickets from £20



LIVE AT KINGS PLACE

SUNDAY 1 MARCH 11AM – 12PM



The West, the Jews & a Broken Promise

Jake Wallis Simons | **Chair: Nicole Lampert**

The global future looks darker than it has for generations. In *Never Again? How the West Betrayed the Jews and Itself*, **Jake Wallis Simons** warns that rising nationalism and antisemitic violence – from Amsterdam and London to Melbourne and New York – signal a deeper threat to liberal democracy. Radicals across the spectrum, he argues, place Jews on the front line. The *Israelophobia* author and former *Jewish Chronicle* editor joins **Nicole Lampert** in conversation.

11am–12pm Tickets £22

The Lines We Draw: A Jewish Journalist's Search for Identity

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

Tim Franks | **Chair: Jonathan Rosenthal**

What does it mean to be Jewish? As a child in 1970s Birmingham, **Tim Franks** was a practising Jew with few relations and little sense of lineage. As the BBC's Middle East Correspondent he was denounced both as a self-hating Jew and an Islamophobe. So he set out to trace his ancestral roots from Constantinople to Curaçao, via Amsterdam, the death camps and Downing Street, uncovering rabbis, refugees, revolutionaries – even Disraeli. The Prix Bayeux winning *Newshour* host joins **Jonathan Rosenthal**, *The Economist's* international editor, to discuss.

11am–12pm Tickets £17.50



Translation: An Unfolding Dialogue

Sponsored by the Freudenheim Family

In association with the TLS

Hephzibah Anderson | **Shoshana Boyd Gelfand**
Boyd Tonkin | **Chair: Toby Lichtig**

The Freudenheim Translation Prize – the most ambitious award in the Jewish Literary Foundation's 75-year history – celebrates outstanding fiction and non-fiction in English translation. Following its inaugural year, judges **Boyd Tonkin**, Rabbi **Shoshana Boyd Gelfand** and **Hephzibah Anderson** join TLS fiction editor **Toby Lichtig** to discuss the art of translation and its vital role in carrying stories, ideas and cultures across languages and borders.

11am–12pm Tickets £10

Book tickets at kingsplace.co.uk/jbw



Janet Suzman: A Life in Focus

Janet Suzman | Chair: Francine Stock

Long recognised as one of the world's leading Shakespeareans, Dame **Janet Suzman** is the definitive Cleopatra and an RSC associate artist who staged a landmark *Othello* in her native South Africa. For six decades she has captivated audiences, earning Oscar, Olivier and BAFTA nominations for *Nicholas and Alexandra* and *Hedda Gabler*. The Pragnell Award winner joins broadcaster **Francine Stock** to reflect on a remarkable career spanning *The Wars of the Roses* and *The Crown*, taking in *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, *The Singing Detective* and much more.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets £22

Children of the Book: A Memoir of Reading Together

In partnership with the National Library of Israel

Ilana Kurshan | Chair: Adam Taub

Ilana Kurshan, in conversation with **Adam Taub**, invites listeners into the book-lined home she has built with her family, where reading aloud nurtures wonder, soothes squabbles, and helps make sense of life's daily rhythms. She reflects on how literature and Torah intertwine in her family's life, and how both reading and parenting are acts of sacred devotion. As in her memoir, she traces the resonances between biblical text and lived experience – from picture books that create the world through language, to libraries, including the National Library of Israel, as sacred shrines – and the moment children read on their own, leaving us atop the mountain as they journey ahead.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets £17.50



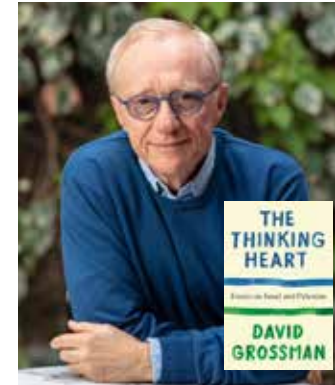
Who Jew Think You Are? Live

Sponsored by Dangoor Education, in association with Jewish Renaissance

Samantha Ellis | Jordan Salama | Chair: Eylan Ezekiel

Join **Eylan Ezekiel**, host of the *Who Jew Think You Are?* podcast, in conversation with authors **Jordan Salama** and **Samantha Ellis**. They explore how stories, language and food keep Jewish heritage alive across generations – from Iraqi and Syrian Jewish families to Latin American diasporas – and reflect on memory, identity and the parts of the Jewish experience often overlooked in mainstream narratives.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets £10



David Grossman: On Israel & Palestine

In partnership with the New Israel Fund

Chair: Rosie Goldsmith

What does enduring conflict do to a person's soul and to the spirit of a nation? Internationally best-selling Israeli writer **David Grossman** has spent decades campaigning for peace. In *The Thinking Heart* he asks difficult, necessary questions of his beloved nation after 7 October: How could this massacre occur? How could the Netanyahu government fail to protect its citizens? Will there ever be a lasting peace in the region? Winner of the International Booker Prize, the Heinrich Heine Prize and the Wingate Prize, Grossman returns to Jewish Book Week in conversation with **Rosie Goldsmith**.

2–3pm Tickets £22

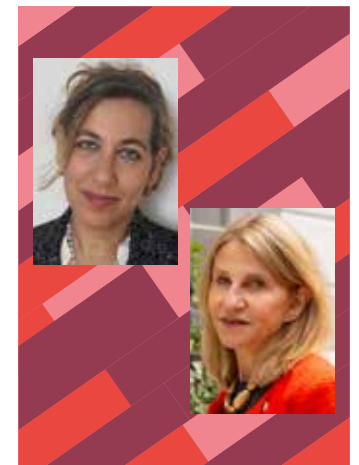
Navigating Crisis: Jewish Communities in the UK and Israel

In partnership with the British Friends of the Hebrew University

Orna Shemer | Nikki Scheiner

In the wake of 7 October, Jewish communities in Israel and the UK have faced trauma, fear and uncertainty, though in starkly different ways. In Israel, Professor **Orna Shemer** has worked closely with evacuated and frontline communities, documenting the psychological impact of the attacks and helping develop models of recovery and resilience. In the UK, consultant psychologist Dr **Nikki Scheiner**, who leads CST's Psychological First Aid programme, has supported communities responding to rising anxiety, antisemitism and violent incidents such as the Manchester synagogue attack. Together they explore what trauma looks like in different contexts, and how communities find the resources to respond.

2–3pm Tickets £17.50



Short Stories on the Shoah: From Behind the Iron Curtain

In association with Jewish Renaissance

Sasha Senderovich | Chair: Aviva Dautch

A single teacup becomes the axis of a family's tangled history. The Jews of Kyiv make a pilgrimage to a massacre site on its anniversary. These are among the stories in *In the Shadow of the Holocaust: Short Fiction by Jewish Writers from the Soviet Union*, written in the immediate aftermath by authors from Belarus, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine. **Sasha Senderovich**, who edited and translated the collection with Harriet Murav, comes to London to explore these stark, unforgettable narratives of love, loss, trauma and memory with Jewish Renaissance executive director **Aviva Dautch**.

2–3pm Tickets £10



Diaspora Jews: A Shifting Landscape

In association with the Jewish Chronicle

Toby Axelrod | Jonathan Boyd | Sarah Hurwitz
Chair: Daniel Schwammmenthal

How has the Jewish diaspora changed in recent years? **Daniel Schwammmenthal**, *Jewish Chronicle* editor and former AJC Transatlantic Institute director, will be joined by leading voices from across the world to consider identity and the evolving challenges and opportunities facing Jews today within the diaspora's shifting landscape. Including **Sarah Hurwitz**, senior speechwriter for the Obamas turned author of *New York Times* bestseller *As a Jew*, on the American perspective; **Jonathan Boyd**, Institute for Jewish Policy Research executive director, on developments in the UK; and award-winning journalist **Toby Axelrod**, the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency's* correspondent for Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £22

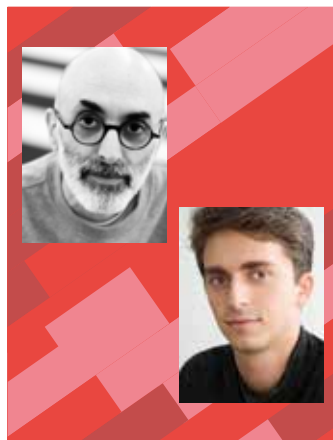
Latin American Journeys: Memory & Belonging

In association with Jewish Renaissance

Eduardo Halfon | Jordan Salama
Chair: Daniel Hahn

Join **Jordan Salama**, winner of this year's Peter Gilbert Prize, awarded by the Woolf Institute for his piece published in *Jewish Renaissance* magazine, and **Eduardo Halfon** in conversation with literary translator **Daniel Hahn** about family, memory and identity across generations. Salama traces his Arab-Jewish heritage from Syria and Iraq to Argentina, uncovering lost family stories in *Stranger in the Desert*. In *Tarantula*, Halfon reflects on the afterlives of the Holocaust in Guatemala, exploring how literature illuminates legacies of migration, memory and belonging.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £17.50



Pop Music, the Swastika & the Third Reich

Daniel Rachel | Chair: Rosie Goldsmith

From Lennon and Bowie to punk and beyond, some of rock 'n' roll's biggest icons have toyed with the aesthetics, hysteria, and even ideology of Nazism. Whether through shock, ignorance, or misguided attempts at provocation, pop music has explored these associations in ways rarely seen in other art forms. In his meticulously researched and sensitively told *This Ain't Rock 'n' Roll*, best-selling author **Daniel Rachel** examines these often-overlooked actions in conversation with **Rosie Goldsmith**.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £10



Howl: Howard Jacobson & Adam Kirsch

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

Just days before his highly anticipated 18th novel is published, **Howard Jacobson** comes to Kings Place. *Howl* follows primary school head Felix Draxler as he wanders London in despair; in the aftermath of 7 October, everything has changed, including himself. The son of a Holocaust survivor who accuses him of cowardice, and the father of a daughter who sees him as complicit in genocide, he shouts at the TV and hauls around a paint tin to cover graffiti. The Booker Prize and Wodehouse Prize winner joins literary critic **Adam Kirsch** to discuss his new book, and more.

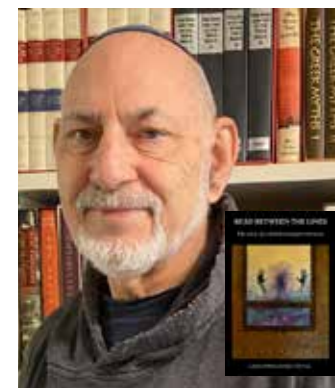
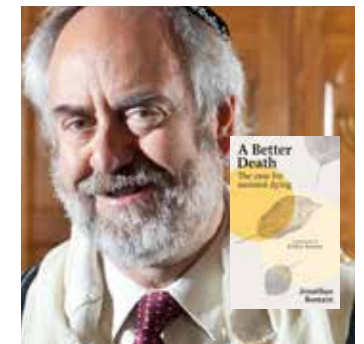
5–6pm Tickets £22

A Better Death

Jonathan Romain | Chair: Cathy Rentzenbrink

Rabbi **Jonathan Romain** joins **Cathy Rentzenbrink** to discuss his new book on assisted dying, one of Britain's most debated ethical issues. Drawing on real-life experiences, he explores the moral, legal, and practical dimensions with clarity and compassion, seeking to present all sides of the debate. The book also offers guidance for heartfelt ceremonies, helping families honour life and navigate grief. Accessible to readers of all beliefs, this conversation sheds light on a deeply personal, human issue.

5–6pm Tickets £17.50



The Dark Side of the Kindertransport

Leon Duval | Chair: Trudy Gold

Bringing 10,000 unaccompanied German and Austrian children to Britain in 1939, the Kindertransport has long been a source of British national pride. Recent research has uncovered an inconvenient truth: many children suffered abuse, estrangement and forced conversions to Christianity. *Read Between the Lines* focuses on Martha Braun; taken from her loving Hamburg family into a Manchester home where she was barred from school and made to be their unpaid servant until, in her own words, "I escaped." **Leon Duval**, tour guide at Yad Vashem, joins educator **Trudy Gold** to share this vital story.

5–6pm Tickets £10



Britain at a Crossroads

In memory of Robin Hyman

**David Aaronovitch | Vernon Bogdanor
Margaret Hodge | Chair: Sam Freedman**

What does Britain's mounting turbulence mean for its Jewish citizens? In a period marked by rising antisemitism, political distrust, and fraying social cohesion, this conversation brings together three experts in their fields to examine the pressures reshaping the nation. Drawing on profound constitutional insight, long experience confronting extremism and safeguarding communities, and a sharp understanding of how media and politics shape both British and Jewish life, **Vernon Bogdanor**, **Margaret Hodge**, and **David Aaronovitch** explore what today's upheavals reveal about Britain itself – and what kind of future the country can plausibly build for its Jewish population and for society as a whole.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £22

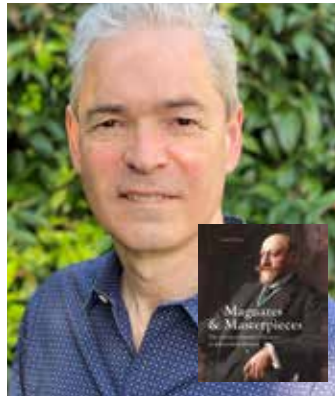


Fin-de-Siècle Emigré Collectors: A British Story

John Hilary | Chair: Jacky Klein

Exalted in Edwardian society for their philanthropy and cultural patronage, a circle of German-Jewish magnates emerged as the foremost art collectors in fin-de-siècle Britain. But during the dark days of World War One their loyalties were condemned, their collections scattered after their deaths, and their legacy largely erased from art history. *Magnates & Masterpieces* is the first book to restore their story; author **John Hilary** joins us to examine their New Humanist upbringings, ideals and ambitions, and above all their enduring faith in art's power to enrich the soul.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £17.50



Unpacking Israel & Palestine

Sponsored by Dangoor Education, in association with the London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism

Peter Hacker | Colin Shindler | Chair: Miri Rubin

Philosopher **Peter Hacker** reflects on the ideological debates that have followed the events of 7 October, drawing on arguments from his recent work on contemporary forms of anti-Zionism and antisemitism. He is joined by historian **Colin Shindler**, whose book *A Forever War* traces the historical development of the Israel-Palestine conflict and examines the challenges of maintaining objectivity in an increasingly polarised world. In conversation with Professor **Miri Rubin**, they explore how competing narratives take shape, how international law is interpreted and debated, and how scholars might seek clarity amid moral and political disagreement.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £10



In Gaza's Wake

In partnership with The Jewish Quarterly

**Tanya Gold | Adam Kirsch | Simon Schama
Chair: Dave Rich**

In a conversation chaired by **Dave Rich**, three leading writers reflect on Jewish life in the shadow of 7 October and the Gaza war. Drawing on their essays for *The Jewish Quarterly*, **Adam Kirsch** examines the new hostility to Zionism and argues for its political – not merely defensive – case; **Tanya Gold** explores how Holocaust memory is being cheapened and distorted in popular culture; and Sir **Simon Schama**, one of the world's foremost historians, considers the long, fraught history of antisemitism and the new forms it has taken. Together they address what it means to live, think and speak as Jews in a profoundly altered world.

8–9.15pm Tickets £22



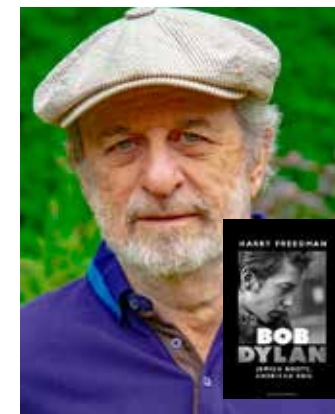
Hitchcock & Bernstein: The Film

In memory of Adrienne & Clive Marks OBE

**Henry Goodman | Toby Haggith | Martin Jameson
Chair: Tim Samuels**

Staged reading followed by a panel discussion. April 1945: a Ministry of Information film crew enters Bergen-Belsen to document Holocaust atrocities many already refused to believe. Shaken by the footage, unit head Sidney Bernstein wrestles with how to do justice to such suffering and seeks advice from his friend Alfred Hitchcock. Guided by him, Bernstein shapes an irrefutable cinematic record from material shot by British combat cameramen. In this exclusive staged reading of **Martin Jameson's** radio play, JBW favourite **Henry Goodman** embodies Bernstein as he confronts the burden of showing the world the truth.

8.15–9.45pm Tickets £20



Bob Dylan: Jewish Roots, American Soil

In association with City Lit

Harry Freedman | Chair: Mark Malcomson

Robert Zimmerman arrived in New York in 1961 as a complete unknown, already using the name he would adopt the next year. Few realised he was, like so many before him, concealing his Jewish identity – nor that as Bob Dylan he would, 65 years later, be celebrated and touring globally. **Harry Freedman**, author of *Leonard Cohen: The Mystical Roots of Genius*, argues Dylan's Jewish ancestry shaped him as much as Woody Guthrie and Beat poetry. He joins **Mark Malcomson** to explore the early years of the only musician to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

8–9pm Tickets £10

Book free Fringe tickets at kingsplace.co.uk/jbw

Coming of Age Under the Nazis

John Jay | Chair: Anne Sebba

Scion of one of France's most prominent Jewish families and cousin of Einstein, teenager Ninette Dreyfus fled occupied Paris, only to fall prey to the Vichy regime. In fear for her life, she became somebody else. Before her death she shared her diaries and experiences with **John Jay**, who discusses his acclaimed *Ninette's War* with **Anne Sebba**.

11am–12pm Free but ticketed



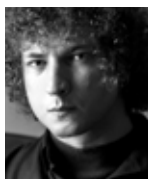
Autism: A Family Memoir

In association with the TLS

Caroline Elton | Chair: Toby Lichtig

Caroline Elton offers a tender, clear-eyed portrait of her autistic brother Lionel, illuminating a lifetime shaped by devotion, ingenuity and the small "town" of people who helped him navigate a world not built for him.

12.30–1.30pm Free but ticketed



Boy from the North Country

Sam Sussman | Chair: Alice Sherwood

As he cares for his dying mother, a son learns of her youthful love for Bob Dylan – a man he reveres and is said to resemble. **Sam Sussman** discusses his acclaimed autofiction *Boy from the North Country* with **Alice Sherwood**.

2–3pm Free but ticketed



Pray to Play: The Birth of Hebrew Children's Literature

In partnership with the National Library of Israel

Dorit Gani

Discover how modern Hebrew children's literature was born with expert and children's author **Dorit Gani** – from early readers to beloved songs – through the work of Bialik, Kipnis and Goldberg, sharing rare materials from the National Library of Israel.

2–3pm Free but ticketed

Book free Fringe tickets at kingsplace.co.uk/jbw

A Poetry of Migration

Stephen Duncan | Annie Freud | Jennifer Langer
Chair: Monica Bohm-Duchen

Poets **Annie Freud**, **Stephen Duncan** and **Jennifer Langer** explore German-Jewish heritage in the UK, reading poetry and reflecting on exile, Weimar culture, memory, and identity.

3.30–4.30pm Free but ticketed



Every Hostage Has A Story

In partnership with the National Library of Israel

Dorit Gani

Dorit Gani shares the story behind the National Library's empty-chair installation for the 7 October hostages, exploring its creation, its meaning, and its profound impact on families and visitors.

5–6pm Free but ticketed



Streaming Wars: What's Going on Behind Your Screen

Charlotte Henry

Streaming didn't just change what we watch – it shifted who controls entertainment. Netflix, Disney, Amazon, Spotify and Apple have rewritten the rules of media, visibility and influence. Culture journalist **Charlotte Henry** takes us behind the screen to explore fierce competition, Hollywood strikes, and the rise of AI shaping what we see and how we see it.

5–6pm Free but ticketed



In Flight: Kafka, Fiction & Reality

Gabriel Josipovici | Chair: David Herman

In *Partita*, Michael Penderecki flees death and intrigue; in *A Winter in Zürau*, Kafka escapes duty and expectation. **Gabriel Josipovici** explores fiction and reality with **David Herman**.

6.30–7.30pm Free but ticketed

Book events around London at
jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk/jewish-book-week



Purim & Persia Tour of the British Museum

In association with the London School of Jewish Studies

Raphael Zarum

Explore the Persian world of the Purim story through artefacts that illuminate Achashverosh's court, Shushan, and the politics of Esther. A vivid, insightful journey through the British Museum's treasures led by expert guide Rabbi Dr **Raphael Zarum**.

Monday 2 March, 12–2.30pm Tickets £30



Jewish Worlds & Words in Medieval England

In association with the British Library

Dean Irwin | Judith Olszowy-Schlanger

Rare manuscripts offer insight into Jewish life in medieval England, and several remarkable examples have recently entered the British Library from Longleat House, including a unique Hebrew grammar, a trilingual Hebrew-Latin-French dictionary, and a Hebrew psalter. Join Dr **Dean Irwin** and Professor **Judith Olszowy-Schlanger** at the British Library, as they discuss.

Monday 2 March, 7–8pm Tickets £12



Cooking with Silvia Nacamulli: An Italian Purim

Cookery demonstration and tasting

Silvia Nacamulli

Join **Silvia Nacamulli** as she cooks, bakes and shares her Italian Jewish Purim stories. Discover how to make savoury and sweet pastries, including Ferrara's buricche and the Italian orecchie di Amman – a fusion of Purim hamantaschen with Carnival's fried frappe and chiacchiere – traditionally enjoyed in abundance at this time of year. Taste everything along the way, finishing with zesty lemon amaretti, and leave inspired to recreate these festive Italian Jewish delights at home.

Tuesday 3 March, 12–2pm and 6.30–8.30pm Tickets £35



BOOKSHOP

Visit our festival bookshop at Kings Place to find titles by all your favourite Jewish Book Week authors.

Open during event hours at Kings Place, immerse yourself in the ideas and stories at the heart of the festival.



Book free online events at
jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk/jewish-book-week



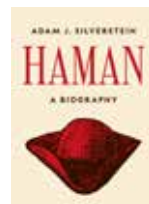
YIVO & the Saving of European Culture

In partnership with Lockdown University, in association with YIVO

Jonathan Brent | Christoph Dieckmann | Chair: Richard Ovenden

Victor Serge wrote that the Holocaust shattered “the idea of the human,” built over millennia. **Jonathan Brent** and **Christoph Dieckmann**, in conversation with **Richard Ovenden**, explore this crisis in both Jewish and European thought, and how the Nazi catastrophe destroyed what Edmund Husserl called the “idea of Europe.” They consider how YIVO's vast collection of European Jewish culture can illuminate and help restore that idea today.

Tuesday 3 March, 3–4pm Free but ticketed



Haman: The True Story of a Villain

In partnership with Lockdown University, in association with the British Friends of the Hebrew University

Adam J Silverstein

Infamous as the antagonist in the book of Esther, Haman is portrayed as a villain across Judaism, Christianity and Islam. **Adam Silverstein** traces his evolution from the ancient Near East to the present in *Haman: A Biography*. He examines evidence for a historical Haman and analyses material showing how readers of the Bible and Qur'an have understood him over two millennia. The Max Schloessinger Chair of Islamic Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem joins us to discuss.

Wednesday 4 March, 3–4pm Free but ticketed



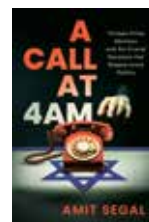
Faith After 7 October

In partnership with Lockdown University

Erica Brown | Chair: Sally Berkovic

Rabbi Sacks wrote that prayer “gives us the words when there are no words” and “sacred space to the tears that otherwise would have nowhere to go”. Dr **Erica Brown**, founding director of Yeshiva University's Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks-Herstein Center, discusses *Morning Has Broken: Faith After October 7th*, weaving personal reflection and Jewish texts on faith, unity, pain and hope.

Wednesday 4 March, 5–6pm Free but ticketed



Making Israel's History: Behind Closed Doors

In partnership with Lockdown University

Amit Segal | Chair: Philip Rubenstein

From Golda Meir's sleepless nights before the Yom Kippur War to Benjamin Netanyahu's relentless power struggles, Israel's Channel 12 News chief political correspondent **Amit Segal** takes us inside the moments where history was made. With unprecedented access, his international bestseller reveals the gripping, untold story of governing a nation that never knows a quiet day, showing how its leaders manage crises while fighting for political survival.

Wednesday 4 March, 7–8pm Free but ticketed



Jazz up the 80s with the Jay Rayner Sextet

As a child of the 80s, restaurant critic, MasterChef judge and jazz pianist **Jay Rayner** has long loved the decade's hits with jazz at their core. He leads a sextet of top-flight musicians in fresh arrangements of classics by Sade, Matt Bianco, Working Week, Everything But The Girl, Paul Weller, Sting and more. Get your jazzy 80s on with the Jay Rayner Sextet. Box-shouldered jacket and big hair optional. With **Pat Gordon-Smith** (voice), **Dave Lewis** (sax), **Robert Rickenberg** (bass), **Chris Cobbson** (guitar) and **Sophie Alloway** (drums).

7.30–8.45pm Tickets from £20

New Jewish Playwrights: A Showcase

Sponsored by Shoreside Charitable Trust

Join us for a showcase by the inaugural cohort of our Jewish Playwrights Programme. Hear excerpts of their original plays brought to life on stage, followed by a panel discussion exploring the state of UK theatre, the experience of emerging playwrights seeing their work produced, and the rising popularity of plays with Jewish themes. A unique opportunity to celebrate new voices shaping contemporary theatre.

7.30–9.30pm including an interval Tickets £17.50



Family Affairs: From Salonica to the Open Road

Michael Arditti | Ben Markovits
Chair: Amanda Craig

Two acclaimed novelists explore the tangled bonds of family through distinctly Jewish lenses. **Michael Arditti's** *The Tribe* follows a Sephardic dynasty from Salonica to France, tracing love, conflict and survival across continents and the upheavals of the twentieth century. **Ben Markovits's** *The Rest of Our Lives* offers a quieter, contemporary portrait: a midlife journey across America in the wake of marital rupture, suffused with reflection on belonging and the ties that shape us. In conversation with writer **Amanda Craig**, they discuss Jewish storytelling, the legacies families carry, and the enduring power of fiction to illuminate our most intimate worlds.

7.30–8.30pm Tickets £10

Book events around London at
jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk/jewish-book-week



Walk the Yiddish East End

Walking tour

Vivi Lachs

Walk along the routes of the 'urban sketch' column of the Yiddish press from the 1890s to the 1950s, as it captures comic, incisive and cheeky encounters with daily life. From parading a new Torah scroll down Whitechapel Road to the chazer market in Goulston Street, expect some surprising histories and performed readings. **Vivi Lachs** will take you on an entertaining journey through local tradition and significant social change, tracing ideas and events that impacted the community.

Wednesday 4 March 11am–2pm Tickets £20



Jewish Stories in the Square Mile

Walking tour

In association with Jewish Renaissance

Susannah Cohen

Explore the City of London's Jewish heritage through a literary lens. From Dickens to Disraeli, this guided walk reveals 1,000 years of Jewish history in the Square Mile.

Thursday 5 March, 12.30–2pm Tickets £20



A Glimpse into an Artist's Studio

Carole Berman

Artist **Carole Berman** offers a glimpse into her creative world with a tour of her studio in North London, ahead of her event on Sunday 8th March when she discusses the Jerusalem-inspired drawings, paintings and sculptures in her visual memoir *The Holy Fire of Art*.

Thursday 5 March, 1–2pm Tickets £12



Into the Woods: Matinee & Meet the Director

Jordan Fein

Into the Woods, Sondheim & Lapine's masterpiece, returns to London in a dazzling revival at the Bridge Theatre, with a matinee prefaced by an exclusive Jewish Book Week talk by director **Jordan Fein**.

Thursday 5 March, 1–5.30pm Tickets £59.50

Book free online events at
jewishliteraryfoundation.co.uk/jewish-book-week



Culture Wars: A Polarised World

In partnership with Lockdown University

Nigel Biggar | Chair: **Ruth Deech**

Debates often described as “culture wars” have become a defining feature of contemporary public life, shaping discussions around values, identity, free expression and social cohesion. Oxford professor **Nigel Biggar** draws on moral philosophy and public debate to examine why these disagreements have become so charged, and what they reveal about the pressures facing liberal democratic societies. In conversation with Baroness **Ruth Deech**, he considers how disagreement is conducted today, the impact of polarisation on institutions such as universities and the media, and how open debate might be sustained in an increasingly divided public sphere.

3–4pm Free but ticketed



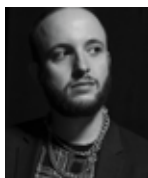
Stefan Zweig: A Literary Life

In partnership with Lockdown University

Rüdiger Görner | Chair: **David Herman**

Exploring his remarkable contribution to world literature, rooted in the Austro-Jewish tradition, *In the Future of Yesterday* offers a fresh perspective on Stefan Zweig. Founding director of the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations **Rüdiger Görner** reexamines his globetrotting life and prolific output, including his influential time in England. He joins *Jewish Chronicle* chief fiction reviewer **David Herman** to discuss a towering figure whose vibrant writing reminds us that there can only be a future if we remain conscious of the past.

5–6pm Free but ticketed



Adventures of Max Spitzkopf: the Yiddish Sherlock Holmes

In partnership Lockdown University,
 in association with the Yiddish Book Centre

Mikhl Yashinsky | Chair: **Sarah Weinman**

Meet Max Spitzkopf: legendary Viennese private eye, undefeated foe of villains, and passionate defender of the Jewish people. Isaac Bashevis Singer hailed Jonas Kreppel's early 20th-century detective stories as “masterpieces.” Now **Mikhl Yashinsky**'s charming translations from the original Yiddish bring 15 of these mysteries, with their unique twist, to a new audience. The teacher, translator, and actor joins us online from New York to discuss writing that is also a vivid testament to Jewish life in all its richness during the final years of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

7–8pm Free but ticketed



Carole King: In Words & Music

Jane Eisner | **XinRu Chen** (pianist)
Cassidy Janson (singer) | Chair: **Edward Seckerson**

55 years after *Tapestry* transformed popular music, selling 30 million copies, we celebrate one of its greatest icons. **Edward Seckerson**, host of our recent tributes to Richard Rogers and Leonard Bernstein, talks to former *Forward* editor **Jane Eisner** about her *Jewish Lives* biography *Carole King: She Made the Earth Move*. And performing some of her classic songs we have Olivier-winner **Cassidy Janson**, who starred in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* in the West End, bringing Carole to tears, before dueting with her in Hyde Park to 65,000 fans.

7.30–8.45pm Tickets from £20

Everything is Copy: Writing Family

Esther Freud | **Miriam Robinson**
 Chair: **Natasha Lehrer**

The authors of two of last year's most acclaimed novels join writer and editor **Natasha Lehrer** to discuss memory, mothers, marriage, bookshops, betrayal and bagels. **Esther Freud**'s semi-autobiographical *Hideous Kinky* first earned her a place on *Granta*'s Best Young Novelists list; three decades on she revisits those characters in *My Sister and Other Lovers*, described as “delicate and profound” by Tracy Chevalier. **Miriam Robinson**'s debut *And Notre Dame is Burning* (“Exceptional”, *The Bookseller*) saw her hailed by *The Mail on Sunday* as “a thrilling new voice in literary fiction”.

7.30–8.30pm Tickets £17.50



Hidden Histories: Spies, Secrets and Survival

In association with the TLS

Helen Fry | **Daria Santini** | Chair: **David Horspool**

Extraordinary true stories of espionage come to life as **Daria Santini** presents *A Woman Named Edith*, the first full biography of Edith Tudor Hart, a Jewish-Austrian exile, photographer, anti-fascist, and Soviet agent who recruited Kim Philby yet eluded capture. Drawing on newly declassified material, **Helen Fry** returns with *The White Lady*, a major history of Britain's key secret service networks in the First and Second World Wars, revealing the hidden world of spies, secrets, and survival.

7.30–8.30pm Tickets £10

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LIVE AT KINGS PLACE

SATURDAY 7 MARCH 7.45 – 9PM



The Future of Liberal Democracy

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

Michael Gove | Richard Hurowitz | John R MacArthur
Chair: **Camilla Long**

As political polarisation widens and populist movements gain ground on both sides of the Atlantic, long-standing assumptions about liberal democracy are being tested. This panel brings together **Michael Gove**, former Cabinet minister and now editor of *The Spectator*; **Richard Hurowitz**, publisher of *The Octavian Report* and author of *In the Garden of the Righteous*; and **John R MacArthur**, president and publisher of *Harper's Magazine* and columnist for *Le Devoir*, in conversation with *Sunday Times* journalist **Camilla Long**. They will reflect on the principles that have shaped the liberal tradition – pluralism, civic responsibility and an open society – and consider how contemporary pressures are altering public life, including the experience of Jewish communities today.

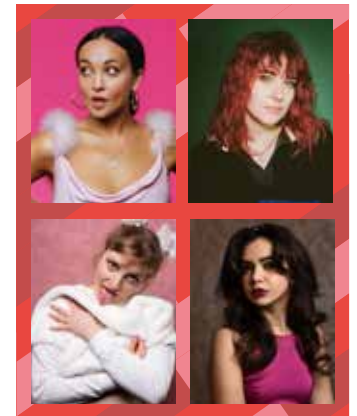
7.45–9pm Tickets £22

Stand-Up at Jewish Book Week

Sarah Roberts | Sansha | Frankie Thompson
Host: **Bella Narain**

Kings Place becomes a place of hilarity on the penultimate night of the 75th Jewish Book Week, celebrating London's vibrant comedy scene. Host **Bella Narain** welcomes a sparkling line-up: Edinburgh sell-out, JW3 panto star and clown **Frankie Thompson** (*Guardian* Top 5 Comedy Shows of the Year); stand-up and online sensation **Sarah Roberts** (*Rolling Stone* Rising Star of Comedy); and musician-comedian **Sansha**, praised by *Sofar Sounds* for "a voice that could melt your heart if it wasn't rupturing your belly with laughter". Presented in partnership with Honk! comedy nights and a highlight of our **£5 under-30s ticket scheme**.

7.45–9pm Tickets £17.50



Kings Place & Oxford Cultural Collective present...

EATING, DRINKING, THINKING

Expert-led masterclasses

Sat 14 Mar 2026

Yasmin Khan

How to Tell Stories Through Food

Sat 21 Mar 2026

Julie Lin

Your First Food Book: Pitching Your Proposal

Sat 18 Apr 2026

Felicity Cloake

Professional Food Writing: A Beginner's Guide

More info and book tickets: kingsplace.co.uk/edt

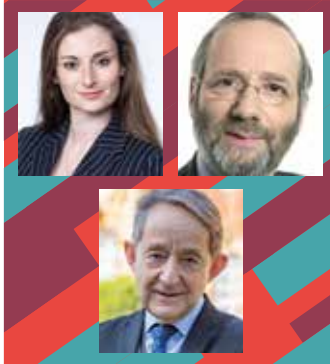
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Book tickets at kingsplace.co.uk/jbw



Can We Still Trust Auntie?

Natasha Hausdorff | Robin Lustig | Anthony Seldon
Chair: Josh Glancy

Is the BBC a big bundle of contradictions? Criticised by many for making Nigel Farage Question Time's most frequent guest, the Reform leader in turn considers the Corporation "despicable". Accused of bias by supporters of Israel, Palestine, Labour and Conservatives alike, another Director General has left under a cloud – this one Trump-inspired – while it still produces TV and radio admired across the world. *Sunday Times* associate editor **Josh Glancy** is joined by an expert panel to discuss what the future holds.

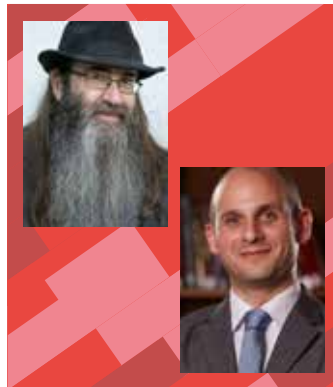
11am–12pm Tickets £22

Jews: Surprisingly Normal

Keith Kahn-Harris | Gavin Schaffer
Chair: Karen Skinazi

When people think of Jews today, anxiety and controversy often dominate — but could the missing B-word actually be "boring"? That's the case Dr **Keith Kahn-Harris** makes in *Everyday Jews*, his wry celebration of Jewish mediocrity. In *An Unorthodox History*, Professor **Gavin Schaffer** offers a bold account of British Jewish life since 1945, shifting the focus from what others think about Jews to the rich variety of their own experiences. The two authors join Hebrew Union College's **Karen Skinazi** to explore their new books and the textures of everyday Jewish life.

11am–12pm Tickets £17.50



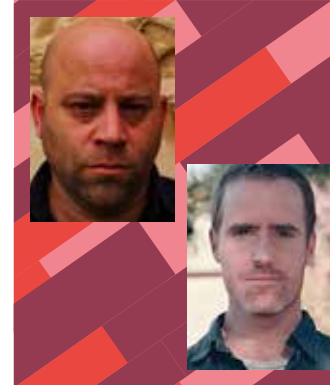
The Work of Writing: Ten New Voices

In partnership with the Genesis Foundation

Chair: Thomas Harding

This year's cohort of Genesis JLF Emerging Writers describe their projects, processes and writing journeys alongside their mentors, which this year include Thomas Harding, Kate Worsley, Ben Markovits, Adam Kammerling and Stav Poleg. Books being developed include a history of a Jewish circus family, a graphic memoir of personal scars and a Gothic novel set in 16th Century England.

11am–12pm Free but ticketed



Israel: Behind the Headlines

In partnership with the Jerusalem Foundation

Matti Friedman | Anshel Pfeffer
Chair: Jenni Frazer

How is Israel understood abroad, and why does its portrayal so often diverge from the view inside the country itself? Two of Israel's most incisive commentators, **Matti Friedman** and **Anshel Pfeffer**, explore the fault lines between foreign reporting and on-the-ground reality. In conversation with journalist **Jenni Frazer**, they examine how global coverage of Israel is shaped, and often warped, asking what this means for public understanding, for Jewish communities worldwide, and for the future of honest reporting.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets £22

Good Slut: Michael Gove & Zoe Strimpel

Despite the fear-mongering from across the political spectrum, **Zoe Strimpel** argues that there has never been a better moment to be a woman. As *Good Slut: How Money, Sex and Power Set Women Free* is published, the author and *Sunday Telegraph* columnist returns to Jewish Book Week. She joins *Spectator* editor and Cabinet veteran **Michael Gove** to contend that, with women's experiences taken more seriously than ever, it is time to move beyond narratives of fragility and victimhood and instead embrace a renewed celebration of female agency.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets £17.50



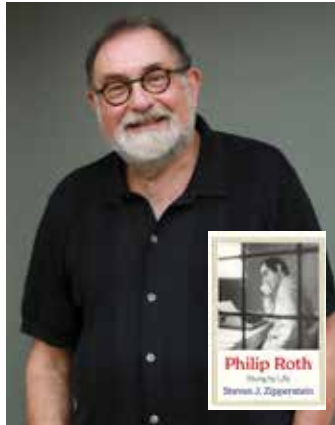
The Global Yiddish Story

In association with the Yiddish Book Centre

David Mazower | Chair: Tom L Freudenheim

It was the everyday language of most of the world's Jews for a thousand years, shaping a cultural legacy of remarkable diversity and achievement. The Yiddish Book Center in Massachusetts is the first museum devoted entirely to this heritage, with its immersive permanent exhibition *Yiddish: A Global Culture* at its core. Its chief curator, journalist **David Mazower**, joins art historian and former YIVO director **Tom L Freudenheim** to explore this essential yet often overlooked aspect of modern Jewish life – from migration and adaptation to innovation and enduring creativity.

12.30–1.30pm Tickets £10



Philip Roth: A Life

In association with Jewish Renaissance

Steven J Zipperstein | Chair: David Herman

Few writers were more devoted to their craft than Philip Roth, even while mixing with the Kennedys and navigating a string of famous and infamous romances. For all his writing on sex and self, the Pulitzer winner saw himself as a socially withdrawn “unchaste monk”. Stanford professor **Steven Zipperstein** joins us to discuss *Stung by Life*, his literary biography charting the extraordinary range of Roth's work – from *Goodbye, Columbus* and *Portnoy's Complaint* to *Sabbath's Theater* and *The Plot Against America* – and placing it within the wider story of American Jewishness, freedom and sexuality.

2–3pm Tickets £22

Mahler & Freud: A Viennese Encounter

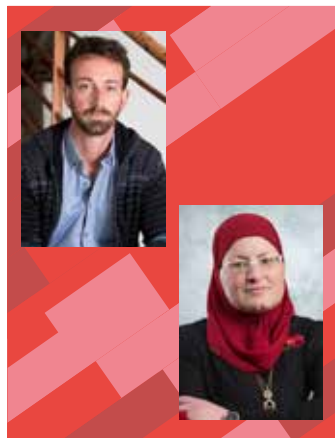
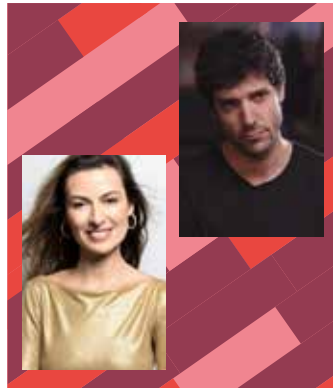
Sponsored by the Rosefield family

Raffaello Morales | Chen Reiss (singer)

Chair: Norman Lebrecht

Raffaello Morales, founder of London's Fidelio Café and conductor of the Fidelio Orchestra, joins renowned critic and cultural historian **Norman Lebrecht**, whose works explore Mahler, Jewish creativity and fin-de-siècle Vienna. Together they discuss *The Earth to the Skies*, Morales's atmospheric novel rooted in the worlds of Mahler and Freud at a moment when art, psychology, and identity were being reinvented. The conversation is accompanied by acclaimed soprano **Chen Reiss**, performing songs from Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder*.

2–3pm Tickets £17.50



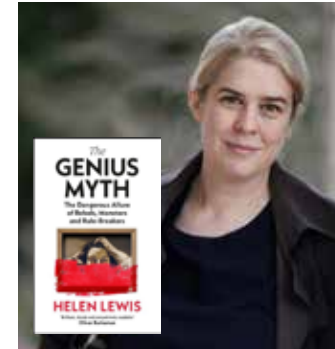
Across the Divide: Jewish & Arab Israeli Women

In partnership with the New Israel Fund

Dror Rubin | Ghadir Hani | Chair: Joanne Greenaway

Peace activist Vivian Silver was one of many murdered in the Gaza Envelope on 7 October. Amid profound grief, her partners in peace have continued her work with *Women Write Hope: Life Stories of Jewish and Arab Women Waging Peace Amidst War*. We welcome two key figures behind this remarkable initiative: social changemaker **Ghadir Hani**, who facilitates dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, and **Dror Rubin**, who focuses on Israel's mixed cities and builds trust between Jews and Arabs. They will discuss the accompanying book, which documents the lives of 21 women.

2–3pm Tickets £10



The Genius Myth

Helen Lewis | Chair: Alice Sherwood

“Male, of middle or upper-middle parentage, preferably Jewish” was Hans Eysenck's notorious sketch of a ‘genius’. The world has largely agreed, from da Vinci and Tolstoy to the Beatles and Elon Musk. In *The Genius Myth*, a *Guardian* and *FT* Book of the Year, **Helen Lewis** unpicks the allure of the lone male prodigy and the damage the myth can do. Following her bestseller *Difficult Women*, she joins *Authenticity* author **Alice Sherwood** to explore who gets called a genius – and why.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £22

Faith, Sex & Daring: An Orthodox Insight

Yehudis Fletcher | Chair: Benjamin Ellis

What happens if one refuses to choose between abandoning their roots and abandoning themselves? **Yehudis Fletcher**, daughter of a rabbi raised in an Orthodox Jewish community, felt fenced in by arbitrary rules and unanswered questions. Growing up, repeatedly let down by those meant to protect her and with her sexuality at odds with family expectations, she made the most daring choice of all: to stay. Now a campaigner for civil liberties within Orthodox communities, *Chutzpah!* tells her exhilarating story, and she joins KeshetUK founder **Benjamin Ellis** to discuss.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £17.50

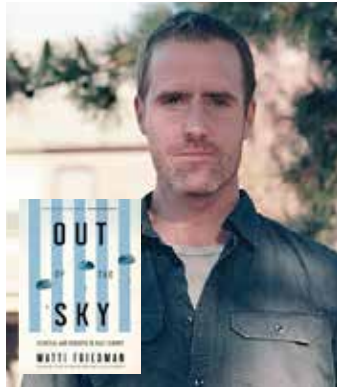


The Einstein Vendetta

Thomas Harding | Chair: Anne Sebba

Subtitled *Hitler, Mussolini and a True Story of Murder*, **Thomas Harding**'s latest takes us to Italy in the summer of 1944. Villa Il Focardo is home to Robert Einstein, cousin of Albert, the world-famous scientist and a prominent enemy of the Nazi regime. Just 12 hours after a unit of German soldiers arrive, they have vanished – and a family lies dead. The award-winning author of *Hanns and Rudolf*, *The Maverick* and *The House by the Lake* joins acclaimed biographer **Anne Sebba** to discuss this previously untold true crime story, antisemitism, fascism and the search for justice.

3.30–4.30pm Tickets £10



Heroism & Rebirth in Nazi Europe

In partnership with the National Library of Israel

Matti Friedman | Chair: Simon Sebag Montefiore

An unlikely team of parachutists drops into Nazi Europe. A great adventure? An act of madness? An elaborate suicide? In *Out of the Sky*, **Matti Friedman** unravels one of the Second World War's strangest episodes: an operation serving two masters hostile to each other, carried out by young women and men who, having escaped the Holocaust, chose to return on a secret mission whose goal remains unexplained. The author of *The Spies of No Country* joins historian **Simon Sebag Montefiore** to discuss this forgotten chapter of the war and the creation of the State of Israel.

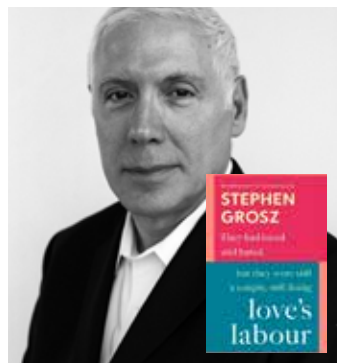
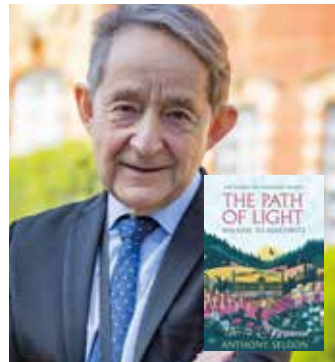
5–6pm Tickets £22

Walking to Auschwitz: A Personal Journey

Anthony Seldon | Chair: Raphael Zarum

Five years after walking the Western Front for his acclaimed *The Path of Peace*, Sir **Anthony Seldon** undertook an even tougher journey: 1,300km from Kilometre Zero to Auschwitz. In conversation with Rabbi Dr **Raphael Zarum**, the No.1 bestselling historian reflects on the people he encountered along the way and on the wartime stories of those who protected the vulnerable and resisted brutality – and what their courage can teach us about building a more peaceful world today.

5–6pm Tickets £17.50



Tales of Love from the Therapy Couch

Stephen Grosz | Chair: Daniel Glaser

Why do we struggle with love? Drawing on four decades of candid conversations with patients, psychoanalyst **Stephen Grosz** asks what gets in the way of falling in love – and what it takes to stay there. *The Sunday Times* No.1 bestselling author of *The Examined Life* returns with *Love's Labour*: luminous, essential stories from the consulting room on desire, heartbreak, grief, and learning to love. Elizabeth Day calls him “the poet laureate of human emotion.” He will be in conversation with **Daniel Glaser**, director of science engagement at the Royal Institution.

5–6pm Tickets £10



Mamdani: A New New York

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

John R MacArthur | Steven J Zipperstein
Chair: Jane Eisner

New York, home to the largest Jewish community outside Israel, is experiencing a profound political and cultural shift. What do these changes mean for Jewish identity, security and civic life? Zohran Mamdani's shock election as mayor saw senate minority leader Chuck Schumer declining to endorse his fellow Democrat. **Jane Eisner**, who led *The Forward* for over a decade, is joined by two incisive voices on US politics – Stanford historian **Steven Zipperstein** and *Harper's Magazine* publisher **John R MacArthur** – to examine how Jewish New York is being reshaped and its future being contested in real time.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £22

Matchmaker, Matchmaker: A Practical Guide

Aleeza Ben Shalom

Catch me a catch! Renowned American-Israeli relationship coach **Aleeza Ben Shalom** shot to international fame as the star of Netflix's *Jewish Matchmaking*. Now, with hundreds of successful matches to her name, she joins us in London for a special event around her paradigm-shifting, highly original book *Matchmaker, Matchmaker: Find Me a Love That Lasts*. With her signature mix of wisdom and humour, the podcaster and columnist debunks common myths about love, inviting us to rethink how we approach dating. Don't miss this masterclass in matchmaking!

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £17.50



Family, Exile & Food: Middle Eastern Stories

Sponsored by Dangoor Education

Linda Dangoor | Stella Darvey Joory
Chair: Lyn Julius

In *Rachel: A Life in a Turbulent Century*, **Stella Darvey Joory** reconstructs her mother's journey from Damascus to Baghdad, tracing the seismic political upheavals that reshaped Middle Eastern Jewish life. **Linda Dangoor's** *From the Tigris to the Thames* blends memoir and cookbook, charting her own path from Baghdad to London through the flavours and memories of a vanished world. Together, these authors explore identity, displacement and the enduring threads of culture that bind generations. A rich conversation on heritage, exile and the worlds we carry with us.

6.30–7.30pm Tickets £10



Mel Brooks: The Almost 100 Year Old Man

Marc Antolin | Allan Corduner
Andy Nyman | Rob Rinder
Host: Maureen Lipman

Brownsville, Brooklyn, June 28th, 1926: on a tenement table is born a baby who will transform comedy. As his centenary nears, we celebrate Mel Brooks and his dazzling seven decades on stage and screen, from *The 2000 Year Old Man* and *Young Frankenstein* to *The Producers* and *History of the World, Parts I & II*. When Jewish Book Week began in 1952, he was already a WWII veteran and writer on *Your Show of Shows*. Now, to close our 75th anniversary, festival favourite **Maureen Lipman** and special guests **Andy Nyman** and **Marc Antolin** from the current London cast of *The Producers*, alongside **Allan Corduner** and **Rob Rinder**, salute the Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony winner.

8.15–9.45pm Tickets from £20

New Natural Histories

Jonathan Drori | Oren Harman | Chair: Daniel Glaser

Nature surrounds us. But what is it – and why is it always changing? Two experts join us, chaired by **Daniel Glaser**. In *Metamorphosis*, science writer **Oren Harman** tackles one of biology's greatest wonders and toughest riddles. From butterflies to human adolescents, why all this destruction and remodelling? Along the way, Aristotle concludes cucumbers have souls, and Freud searches in vain for eel testicles. *Around the World in 80 Trees* and *Around the World in 80 Plants* author **Jonathan Drori** returns with *The Stuff That Stuff Is Made Of*, exploring 30 species, how they grow, why they matter, the objects we make from them, and links to his wider work.

8–9pm Tickets £17.50



Kabbalah & Music

Mendel Cohen | Eduard Shyfrin
Chair: Elisa Bray

Scientist, entrepreneur and Kabbalah scholar **Eduard Shyfrin** PhD introduces *The Relativity of Death, Part I* and discusses how Jewish mysticism has shaped an unexpected new chapter in his life in music. A pioneer of the “Kabbalah of Information”, his search for meaning led him back to the music of his childhood and ultimately to composing two albums, *Upside Down Blues* and *In the Shadow of Time*. He speaks with Rabbi **Mendel Cohen**, chaired by journalist **Elisa Bray**.

8–9pm Free but ticketed



Book free Fringe tickets at kingsplace.co.uk/jbw



Death in a Shallow Pond

David Edmonds | Chair: Simon May

Peter Singer's landmark 1972 thought experiment argued that failing to save lives in the developing world is no less morally troubling than letting a drowning child perish to keep our shoes dry. Bestselling author **David Edmonds** joins **Simon May** to explore *Effective Altruism*, the philosopher, the force of his argument, and its enduring controversy.

11am–12pm Free but ticketed



The Future of Jewish Art

In association with Jewish Renaissance

Aviva Dautch | Chair: Andrew Renton

Emerging and international Jewish artists showcase work exploring heritage, diaspora, and creativity. *Jewish Renaissance* director **Aviva Dautch** and **Andrew Renton** discuss the future of Jewish visual art in the UK.

11am–12pm Free but ticketed



Holy Fire: An Artist's Inner Journey

Carole Berman | Chair: Ariel Kahn

Artist **Carole Berman** reflects on the drawings, paintings and sculptures shaped by alchemy, Hebrew and Sufi poetry, the Talmud, the Bible, the Zohar, Jungian thought and her own dreams—many created during her years in Jerusalem in the 1990s. In conversation with novelist and lecturer **Ariel Kahn**.

12.30–1.30pm Free but ticketed



Ben Markovits: Meet the Author

Join Booker Prize–shortlisted author **Ben Markovits** for an extended author Q&A. This session is exclusively for under-30s and is free to access.

12.30–1.30pm Free but ticketed

Book free Fringe tickets at kingsplace.co.uk/jbw**HRT: Everything Your Mother Didn't Tell You****Ellie Cannon | Chair: Luciana Berger**

With so much conflicting information, navigating the menopause can feel overwhelming. Dr **Ellie Cannon's** *The Little Book of HRT* offers an accessible, engaging guide that goes far beyond what a brief GP appointment can cover. Join the *Mail on Sunday* health columnist and regular on BBC Breakfast, ITV and Channel 5 for her level-headed, impartial expertise.

2–3pm Free but ticketed**What's Next for Jewish Books: A Conversation with The Wingate Prize**

In Association with The Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation

Chair: Emily Kasriel

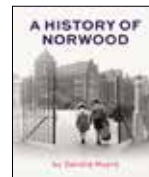
Join author **Emily Kasriel** and the 2026 Wingate Prize judges for a conversation with the winner, exploring Jewish writing, its global impact, and the challenges prize-winning authors face.

2–3pm Free but ticketed**Dangerous Debuts****Leon Craig | Sean Gilbert | Chair: Gemma Seltzer**

Humour and horror collide in two acclaimed debut novels, whose authors join writer **Gemma Seltzer** in conversation. **Leon Craig** follows her story collection *Parallel Hells* with *The Decadence*: a forbidden lockdown escape to a crumbling manor where old friends fracture under pressure. And in journalist **Sean Gilbert's** *I'll Be the Monster*, a homicidal couple take a luxury holiday to salvage their marriage, triggering a lethal cat-and-mouse chase beneath the Mediterranean sun.

3.30–4.30pm Free but ticketedBook free Fringe tickets at kingsplace.co.uk/jbw**A Workshop on New Jew-ish Writing****Aleph Ross | Natalie Perman**

Join **Aleph Ross** and **Natalie Perman** for a discussion and writing workshop inspired by *Fridays* and *Saturdays*, exploring Jewish writing today and how to create your own work alongside emerging and established voices.

3.30–4.30pm Free but ticketed**The Story of Norwood****Sandra Myers | Chair: Trudy Gold**

Explore Norwood's journey from an East End refuge founded 230 years ago for destitute Jews to Britain's leading Jewish children's charity – and meet remarkable alumni, including F Scott Fitzgerald's mistress and Hollywood insider, Sylvia Graham.

5–6pm Free but ticketed**Surviving Mengele's Auschwitz****Richard Lowy**

The extraordinary story of how two boys survived humanity's darkest hour – and found each other again half a century later. *Kalman & Leopold* is the harrowing firsthand account – narrated to the latter's son, **Richard Lowy**, who joins us here – of two survivors of Mengele's brutal Auschwitz experiments who were reunited 56 years after liberation.

6.30–7.30pm Free but ticketed**LOVE JEWISH BOOK WEEK?**

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