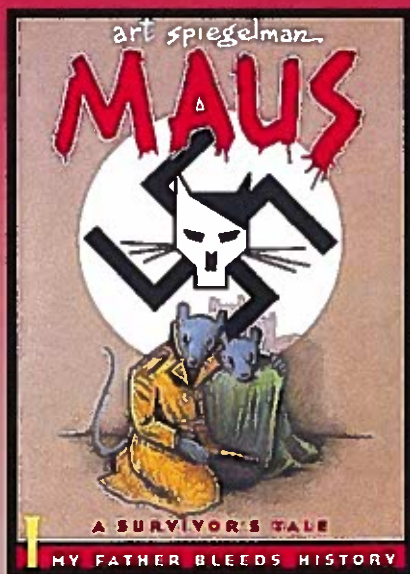


YESHIVAH OF FLATBUSH  
JOEL BRAVERMAN HIGH SCHOOL

# BOOK DAY



**FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

**6 ADAR 5775**

**This program was made possible by a  
generous grant from Arthur Braverman**

### ADMINISTRATION

Rabbi Raymond Harari, Head of School  
Rabbi Ronald J. Levy, Principal  
Ms. Jill W. Sanders, Associate Principal  
Ms. Sari Bacon, Associate Principal  
Rabbi Joseph Beyda, Assistant Principal  
Rabbi David Eliach, Principal Emeritus

Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer Prize winning *Maus* was selected for Book Day for its themes of Jewish survival and renewal and for its timeless portrayal of generations seeking connection with each other. The graphic art form used to convey these messages resonated with our students and illuminated the subject in ways that went beyond the written word.



Thank you

Many thanks to Ms. Bebe Levitt, Alumni Director, for her help, and much gratitude to Ms. Rochelle Dweck, Ms. Ami Sasson and Ms. Shifra Hanon for graciously arranging the luncheon. Many thanks to our guests presenters and our wonderful faculty who prepared fascinating and insightful sessions for our students. Thank you to Ms. Shelley Kaplowitz, Ms. Sally Shatzkes and Ms. Ariela Robinson for their dramatic productions. Additional thanks to Mr. Jason Novetsky, Mr. Brian Gelfand and Ms. Therese Berkowitz for their artistic and musical contributions and Mr. Adam Hofstetter for his participation as well. Thank you to Joey Baum and the AV squad. We extend our appreciation to our Student Committee members whose enthusiasm was so engaging. Enjoy the day!

Rachail Kurtz  
*Chair, Library*

Brian Katz  
*Librarian*

Mica Bloom  
*Chair, English*

**Book Day Coordinators**

# PROGRAM

8:00—9:10 **Tefilah and Breakfast**

8:15—9:10 **Breakfast in the Board Room**  
for guests and faculty presenters

9:15—10:10 **Opening Assembly**

**Keynote speaker: Mr. Abraham Foxman**

*National Director, Anti-Defamation League*

**Dramatic Performance, *A Face in the Crowd***

Created and directed by Ms. Sally Shatzkes

**Film Presentation, *Unwrapping the Layers***

Produced by Ms. Shelley Kaplowitz

10:15—11:00 **Session I**

11:05—11:50 **Session II**

11:50—12:55 **Luncheon**

12:10—12:30 **Address by Dr. Irit Felsen**

*Literature of the Second Generation: giving voice  
to silent and speechless parents.*

1:00—1:45 **Session III**

1:50 — 2:35 **Session IV**

2:40—3:10 **Closing Assembly**

**Klezmer Duo, *Music of Eastern Europe***

**Video Presentation, *A Day in the Life***

Produced by Ms. Ariela Robinson

**Wrap-Up, *Highlights of Book Day 2015***

**Yeshivah of Flatbush Choir, *Ahenu Kol Bet Yisrael***

3:10— 3:20 **Mincha**

## MORNING SESSION I (10:15—11:00)

**401 Mr. Abraham Foxman**

*National Director, Anti-Defamation League*

“Inside Hate Groups: Who are they and why do they hate us?”

**402 Mr. Robert Bielsky**

*Son of partisan leader Tuvia Bielski*

“Defiance: The real story behind the movie.”

**403 Dr. Karen Heilig**

*General Counsel and Assistant Executive Vice President, Holocaust Claims Conference*

“Compensating the Victims: Who should receive restitution?”

**404 Mr. Saul Jacobson**

*Attorney*

“Free Speech vs. Hate Speech: How far do our First Amendment rights go?”

**405 Ms. Ellen Bemak**

*Director of Payroll and Benefits, Yeshivah of Flatbush*

“Never Again! My experience as a member of the Jewish Defense League.”

**406 Ms. Melanie Hope Greenberg**

*Children’s author and illustrator*

“Using Art and Text To Create a Children’s Book.”

## **MORNING SESSION I (10:15—11:00) Cont.**

**407 Dr. Barbara Paris**

*Director of Geriatrics, Maimonides Medical Center*

"Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome: The medical and psychological effects facing survivors and their children."

**408 Ms. Lisa Goldstein**

*Division Chief, Central Youth Wing, Brooklyn Public Library*

"What Are Graphic Novels and Why Are They So Popular?"

**409 Ms. Sally Shatzkes**

*Coordinator, Witness Theater*

"Witness Theater: Behind the scenes of the Yom HaShoah production."

**410 Rabbi Moshe Tessone**

*Teacher, Judaic Studies*

"*The Forgotten Refugees*: Displaced and persecuted Jews in Arab lands in the 1930s and 1940s."

**412 Mr. Brian Wall**

*Former member of the New York Police Department*

"Hate Crimes: What is the role of the NYPD and law enforcement?"

**207 Rabbi Simcha Weinstein**

*Author, speaker, Rabbi at Pratt Institute*

"*Bam! Zap! Kapow!* The Jewish origins of comic book superheroes."

**MORNING SESSION I (10:15—11:00) cont.**

**210 Mr. Tomer Kornfeld**

*Student, John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

*“Defending Against Hate: standing up to anti-Israel bias on college campuses.”*

**212 Ms. Elaine Agassi**

*Faculty, English Department*

*“Of Maus and Men: Turning the visual image back on itself and creating a positive from a negative.”*

**Library Dr. Joyce Fruchter**

*Chair, Science Department*

*“Ethics and Experiments: Should we use ill-gotten results for scientific or medical progress?”*



## MORNING SESSION II (11:05 - 11:50)

**401 Mr. Abraham Foxman**

*National Director, Anti-Defamation League*

"Inside Hate Groups: Who are they and why do they hate us?"

**402 Mr. Robert Bielsky**

*Son of partisan leader Tuvia Bielski*

"*Defiance*: The real story behind the movie."

**403 Dr. Karen Heilig**

*General Counsel and Assistant Executive Vice President, Holocaust Claims Conference*

"Compensating the Victims: Who should receive restitution?"

**404 Mr. Saul Jacobson**

*Attorney*

"Free Speech vs. Hate Speech: How far do our First Amendment rights go?"

**405 Ms. Ellen Bemak**

*Payroll Coordinator, Yeshivah of Flatbush*

"Never Again! My experience as a member of the Jewish Defense League."

**406 Ms. Melanie Hope Greenberg**

*Children's author and illustrator*

"Using Art and Text To Create a Children's Book."

## **MORNING SESSION II (11:05—11:50) cont.**

**407 Dr. Barbara Paris**

*Director of Geriatrics, Maimonides Medical Center*

“Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome: The medical and psychological effects facing survivors and their children.”

**408 Ms. Lisa Goldstein**

*Division Chief, Central Youth Wing, Brooklyn Public Library*

“What Are Graphic Novels and Why Are They So Popular?”

**409 Ms. Sally Shatzkes**

*Coordinator, Witness Theater*

“Witness Theater: Behind the scenes of the Yom HaShoah production.”

**410 Mr. Brian Wall**

*Former member of the New York Police Department*

“Hate Crimes: What is the role of the NYPD and law enforcement?”

**412 Ms. Sarah Rosenbaum and Ms. Batia Theil**

*Faculty, Judaic Studies*

“Growing Up With Parents Who Survived: our story.”

**207 Rabbi Simcha Weinstein**

*Author, speaker, Rabbi at Pratt Institute*

“Zap! Bam! Kapow! The Jewish origins of comic book superheroes.”



**MORNING SESSION II (11:05—11:50) cont.**

**210 Ms. Rochelle Dweck and Ms. Ami Sasson**

*Ladies Auxiliary, Yeshivah of Flatbush*

“European Food: preparing and presenting ethnically authentic food. Tasting included!”

**212 Mr. Tomer Kornfeld**

*Student, John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

“Defending Against Hate: standing up to anti-Israel bias on college campuses. ”

**Library Dr. Joyce Fruchter**

*Chair, Science Department*

“Ethics and Experiments: Should we use ill-gotten results for scientific or medical progress?”



## AFTERNOON SESSION III (1:00—1:45)

**401 Dr. Wesley Fisher**

*Director of Research, Conference on Jewish  
Material Claims Against Germany*

"Looted Art: finding and returning Nazi-plundered art, Judaica and other Jewish cultural property."

**402 Ms. Lesley Kassin**

*Tsei U'leamad instructor*

"Graphic Art: Make your vision come alive! A hands on experience."

**403 Ms. Erica Levavi and Ms. Chaya Zimmerman**

*Guidance Department*

"How Far Would You Go To Be Accepted?: The stress of peer pressure and personal choice."

**404 Rabbi Craig Lubner**

*Co-Chair, Tanakh Department*

"The Art of Memory: creating memorable and lasting memorials."

**405 Rabbi Joseph Beyda**

*Assistant Principal, Yeshivah of Flatbush H.S.*

"Can We Forgive the Unforgiveable? *The Sunflower* scenario: What would you do?"

**406 Ms. Shelley Kaplowitz**

*Faculty, Social Studies Department*

"Hollywood and the Holocaust: movie studios, politics, business and indifference during World War II."

**AFTERNOON SESSION III (1:00—1:45) cont.**

**407 Rabbi Zelig Prag**

*Chair, Talmud Department*

"Faith Amid the Flames: holding onto your beliefs during challenging times."

**408 Mr. Arie Kaplan**

*Author, public speaker, comic book writer*

"From Krakow to Krypton: Jews and comic books."

**409 Dr. Irit Felsen**

*Clinical Psychologist*

"Survivors and Their Children: The effects of trauma and resilience on the family."

**410 Mr. Justin Engel**

*Faculty, Social Studies Department*

"Holocaust and Children's Literature: reading a difficult topic as a children's novel."

**412 Mr. Howard Rothbort**

*Chairman, Social Studies Department*

"America, FDR and the Holocaust."

**207 Ms. Miriam Wielgus**

*Chair, Jewish History Department*

"Captured!: The hunt for Nazi war criminals."

## AFTERNOON SESSION III (1:00-1:45) cont.

**210 Ms. Rochelle Dweck and Ms. Ami Sasson**

*Ladies Auxiliary, Yeshivah of Flatbush*

“European Cuisine: preparing and presenting ethnically authentic food. Tasting included!”

**212 Ms. Sari Bacon**

*Associate Principal, Yeshivah of Flatbush H.S.*

“Critics Against *Maus*: the surprising controversy.”

**Library Ms. Therese Berkowitz and select AP  
2D Design students**

*Faculty, Graphic Art*

“Graphic Design: designing and creating your own book cover.”



## AFTERNOON SESSION IV (1:50-2:35)

**401 Dr. Wesley Fisher**

*Director of Research, Conference on Jewish  
Material Claims Against Germany*

"Looted Art: finding and returning Nazi-plundered art, Judaica, and other Jewish cultural property."

**402 Klezmer Duo and Ms. Miriam Wielgus**

*Musical band; Chair, Jewish History Department*

"The Klezmer Beat: the background and sound of a unique Jewish style of music."

**403 Ms. Lesley Kassin**

*Tsei U'lemad instructor*

"Graphic Art: Make your vision come alive! A hands on experience."

**404 Rabbi Moses Haber**

*Faculty, Judaic Studies*

"Evil: Don't blame God!"

**405 Rabbi Craig Lubner**

*Co-Chair, Tanakh Department*

"The Art of Memory: creating memorable and lasting memorials."

## AFTERNOON SESSION IV (1:50-2:35) cont.

**406 Ms. Shelley Kaplowitz**

*Faculty, Social Studies Department*

"Hollywood and the Holocaust: movie studios, politics, business and indifference during World War II."

**407 Rabbi Zelig Prag**

*Chairman, Talmud Department*

"Faith Amid the Flames: holding onto your beliefs during challenging times."

**408 Mr. Arie Kaplan**

*Author, public speaker, comic book writer*

"From Krakow to Krypton: Jews and comic books."

**409 Ms. Eva Dayan**

*Art Therapist, Guidance Department*

"When Words Are Not Enough: art as therapy."

**410 Mr. Justin Engel**

*Faculty, Social Studies Department*

"The Holocaust and Children's Literature: reading a difficult topic as a children's novel."

**412 Rabbi Ronald Levy**

*Principal, Yeshivah of Flatbush H.S.*

"Reestablishment of the German-Jewish Communities in New York Before and After World War II."

## **AFTERNOON SESSION IV (1:50-2:35) cont.**

**207 Ms. Chana Stein**

*Faculty, English Department*

“Creative Writing: found poems based on Holocaust themes.”

**210 Ms. Sarah Shulman**

*Chair, Mathematics Department*

“What Really Matters: life lessons to be learned from the Holocaust.”

**212 Dr. Etty Mizrahi and Mr. Irving Franco**

*Guidance Department*

“Bullying and Intimidation: crossing the line.”

**Library Ms. Ariela Robinson**

*Faculty, English*

“Creating Your Own Graphic Memoir.”



## GUEST PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Robert Bielsky**, owner of Manhattan Commercial Realty, is the son of Tuvia Bielski upon whose story the movie *Defiance* is based. A former Brooklyn native, he has addressed many audiences on the true story of the Bielski brothers' experience during the Holocaust.

**Rochelle Dweck**, mother of freshman, Murray, and senior, Florence, is a graduate of Yeshivah of Flatbush. She is a member of the Leadership Council of the Yeshivah and is an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary. She was a contributor to *Taste*, the Yeshivah of Flatbush cookbook, as well as to the next cookbook coming out this spring.

**Irit Felsen, Ph.D.**, is a clinical psychologist specializing in trauma and traumatic loss. She is an Adjunct Professor at Yeshiva University and is in private practice in NJ. Dr. Felsen serves on an emergency response team for the delivery of services following critical incidents, and is a member of the NGO on Mental Health in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations. Dr. Felsen has a Ph.D. from the University of Hamburg, Germany and an MA degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Dr. Felsen did her postdoctoral training at Yale University.

**Wesley A. Fisher, Ph.D.** Director of Research at the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, is responsible for the Claims Conference/World Jewish Restitution Organization Looted Art and Cultural Property Initiative. He has been responsible for projects to bring together and make accessible the scattered records of Nazi art looting that are used by ministries of culture, auction houses, and provenance researchers worldwide.

**Abraham Foxman** is the National Director of the Anti-Defamation League and is known throughout the world as a leader in the fight against anti-Semitism, prejudice and discrimination. Mr. Foxman graduated from the Yeshivah of Flatbush, and earned his B.A. in Political Science from the City College of the City University of New York, graduating with honors in history. He holds a law degree from New York University School of Law. Born in Poland in 1940, Mr. Foxman was saved from the Holocaust as an infant by his Polish Catholic nanny who baptized and raised him as a Catholic during the war years. His parents survived the war, but 14 members of his family were lost.



## GUEST PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Aryeh Gandelman and Yann** are of European origin and are highly trained in classical Eastern European and western style music. They are very experienced in playing all forms of Jewish music, as well as "freilich" and other styles of Jewish, Yiddish and Mizrahi music.

**Lisa Goldstein** has worked as a youth librarian in Brooklyn for over ten years, and has been a comics fan for a little longer. She served on Great Graphic Novels for Teens, an ALA committee, and presented a paper at a Young Adult literature symposium and New York Comic Con. She currently heads the Youth Wing at Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library.

**Melanie Hope Greenberg** has illustrated 16 children's books, six of which she authored. Her books have won awards and appeared on notable, honor and library reading lists, including a selection as a New York Times Great Children's Read. She was honored as the Artist-in-Residence for the first National Endowment for the Arts Grant at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.

**Dr. Karen Hellig**, born in Sydney, Australia, currently serves as General Counsel and Assistant Executive Vice President of the Holocaust Claims Conference. She has participated in all negotiations, including those that led to payments to former slave and forced laborers, as well as other settlements. Karen's parents and grandparents were Holocaust survivors. Her grandfather and all his 8 brothers perished in the Shoah.

**Saul Jacobson** graduated from Georgetown University Law School and has worked in private practice for the past 15 years representing various Internet and software companies with intellectual property and privacy issues.

**Arie Kaplan** is the author of the critically acclaimed nonfiction book *From Krakow to Krypton: Jews and Comic Books* (JPS, 2008), which was a 2009 Booklist Editors' Choice: Books for Youth Winner, a 2008 finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, and a 2009 Sophie Brody Honor Book (awarded by the American Library Association). Arie's newest Young Adult nonfiction book is *Saturday Night Live: Shaping TV Comedy and American Culture*, which was published by Lerner Publishing Group in September 2014. Aside from his exploits in book publishing, public speaking, gaming and television, Arie is a comic book writer who has written comics and graphic novels for DC Comics, Dark Horse Comics, MAD Magazine, Archie Comics, Bongo Comics, Penguin Young Readers Group, Capstone, Papercutz, Ape Entertainment and other publishers. His website is [www.ariekaplan.com](http://www.ariekaplan.com).

## GUEST PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Lesley Kassin** has a B.A. in Education from NYU and loves to teach many things, from tennis to the creative arts. She is currently teaching a Tsei U'lemad design course on the art of drawing patterns. As a proud parent of two Yeshivah of Flatbush High School students, Mrs. Kassin enjoys sharing her artistic abilities with the Yeshivah.

**Tomer Kornfeld**, a graduate of Yeshivah of Flatbush and former Israel Activism Commissioner, is a sophomore at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He is president of the campus Hillel, an Emerson Fellow at StandWithUs and plans to pursue a career in criminal law.

**Barbara Cammer Paris, M.D.** is a graduate of Yeshivah of Flatbush High School 1969. She is currently Vice-Chair of Medicine and Director of the Division of Geriatrics at Maimonides Medical Center and Clinical Professor of Medicine, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine and Medical Education at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Adjunct Clinical Professor at Yeshiva University, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Her clinical and research interests are frail elderly patients, including Holocaust survivors. Dr. Paris lives in New York City with her husband, Peter. Their son, Andrew, is also a graduate of YOFHS and is also a physician, as is their daughter Julia.

**Ami Sasson** is a graduate of the elementary and high schools of the Yeshivah of Flatbush. She is a member of the Board of Education as well as the Board of Trustees. She has played an active role in the Ladies Auxiliary and served as president for two terms. She is the mother of freshman, Dubby, and senior, Solomon.

**Brian Wall** is a former member of the NYPD, who retired as a Detective Sergeant. He worked in numerous units including vice, organized crime and hate crimes, where he investigated crimes based on race and religion. He was involved in the investigation of the Bonnano crime family.

**Simcha Weinstein** chairs the Religious Affairs Committee at Pratt Institute. He is also the author of several books, including *Up, Up, and Oy Vey!: how Jewish history, culture, and values shaped the comic book superhero* and *Shtick Shift: Jewish humor in the 21st century*. He is a popular lecturer and speaker.



# *Maus*

Art Spiegelman

תשע"ה / Book Day 2015



In memory of Moshe Radinsky

Yeshivah of Flatbush High School, 1966