

A Rabbi, a Cartoonist & a Storyteller Walk into a Bar/JEWels: Teasing Out Poetry in Jewish Humor & Storytelling 12/29

Book Pre-launch Event Hosted by Flash Rosenberg with Bob Mankoff, Bob Holman, Rabbi Edward Schecter, Esther Cohen, Lisa Lipkin, Zev Shanken, Steve Zeitlin

NEW YORK, NY, USA, December 3, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A "crown jewel" of this month's <u>Yiddish New York</u> Festival is sure to be the special pre-launch event for upcoming book, JEWels – Teasing Out the Poetry in Jewish Humor and Storytelling.

Presented by Yiddish New York in partnership with <u>City Lore</u> (Tuesday, December 29th at 3:15pm), The JEWels pre-launch event features Jewish jokes and tales polished into short poems and presented live on Zoom by a mini-minyan of New York City's top storytellers, humorists and poets. Hosted by artist, comedian and Moth storyteller Flash Rosenberg, the event also features the Storytelling Rabbi Edward Schecter, former New Yorker cartoon editor Bob Mankoff, writer and activist Esther Cohen, poets Bob Holman and Zev Shanken, storyteller Lisa Lipkin and folklorist Steve Zeitlin, City Lore's founding executive director and editor of JEWels.

Zeitlin says the event is a celebration of the forthcoming book JEWels, where attendees can "join us as we enter the cave of Jewish jokes and stories, hold up a miner's lamp, chip away at the schist and sift through the dust of legends, tales, poems, jokes, and stories to find those that stand the test of time. Mining for meaning, we journey through these jokes and tales in a quest to uncover the JEWels. Then we polish hard so each of us can see—our own reflection."

"Jewish jokes seem to lend themselves to poetry," says Zeitlin. "Although some will simply make you laugh, most exist in that profound human space where you do not know whether to laugh or cry." Attendees are invited to bring their own poetic or philosophical Jewish jokes and tales to share.

BOOK PRE-LAUNCH: JEWels – Teasing out the Poetry in Jewish Humor and Storytelling TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 3:15PM

For tickets, go to www.YiddishNewYork.com for single session pass or full festival pass

At a Bungalow in the Rockaways
Four women play Mah Jongh in hushed silence
No sound but the clicking of tiles
Then, unable to sustain the quiet, the first one utters, Oy
Again silent, she places her tile on the board
The second can't help herself, utters Oy vei
Silence
The third gives in, Oy veis meir
OK, Says the fourth
I thought we weren't going to talk about our children

~ Steve Zeitlin

Six Differences between a Joke and a Poem
1/ A joke is something your mother couldn't tell;
a poem is the same thing, but with your father.
2/ Jokes don't get better the more you hear them.
3/ The answer to a joke: "To get to the other side."
The answer to a poem: "To see time fly."
4/ Freud never had to write a book called
Poems and Their Relation to the Unconscious.
5/ A joke repeated is a rotten banana;
a poem repeated is a fermented grape.
6/ A joke never waits for you.

~ Zev Shanken

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