

Authors to present books of Jewish interest at Miami Book Fair



Author Francine Klagsbrun will present her book "Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel" at the Miami Book Fair. (COURTESY)



By **Sergio Carmona**

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Books include those on unique Holocaust story, Golda Meir and Jewish comedy

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The South Florida Jewish community should find book presentations at the 2017 **Miami** Book Fair of great interest to them.

The book fair, taking place from Nov. 12-19 at Miami-Dade College's Wolfson Campus, 300 NE 2nd Ave. in Miami, includes several authors presenting books considered of Jewish interest.

Among these books is "The Pharmacist of Auschwitz: The Untold Story" by Patricia Posner, who presents her book on Nov. 18 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 8302. Posner is a British-born writer who lives in **Miami Beach** and who has collaborated with her husband Gerald Posner on 12 non-fiction books.

In "The Pharmacist of Auschwitz," the little-known story of Victor Capesius, a Bayer pharmaceutical salesman from Romania who at the age of 35 joined the Nazi SS in 1943 and quickly became the chief pharmacist at Auschwitz, is told. This book is based in part on previously classified documents as Posner exposes Capesius' reign of terror at the camp, his escape from justice and how a handful of survivors and a single prosecutor finally brought him to trial for murder 20 years after the end of the war. As it is set against a backdrop ranging from Hitler's war to conquer Europe to the Final Solution to postwar Germany's tormented efforts to confront its dark past, Posner shows the depths to which ordinary men descend when they are unrestrained by conscience or any sense of morality.

"It is not just another Holocaust story," Posner said. "It is a story of an ordinary man, who was a pharmacist, and what you can become under those circumstances when you're put into a situation like that. It's a unique story in that way. This wasn't a man that was politically motivated, or there was no sign in his history of anti-Semitism. He was married to a half-Jewish woman and he was drafted [into the German Wehrmacht]."

Another book that local Jews should be interested in is "Lioness: **Golda Meir** and the Nation of Israel" by Francine Klagsbrun, an author of more than a dozen books, who will present her book on Nov. 19 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 3209. This book is a biography of the Israeli stateswoman and politician who was also the fourth prime minister of Israel.

When asked what she feels people can learn about Meir that they didn't know before through this book, Klagsbrun responded, "I think that she was smarter than people thought she was."

"For example, she was able to make military decisions in the Yom Kippur War that nobody realized that she made them. She was able to hold the country together at that time. She presented herself often as this sweet little Jewish grandmother, and she liked that image, but she was a very tough, very strong woman, and she was a strong woman at the time when the nation needed that kind of strength."

There is also "Jewish Comedy: A Serious History," by Jeremy Dauber, an author of several books on Jewish literature, who will present his book on Nov. 19 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 8201. In this book, Dauber traces the origins of Jewish comedy and its development from biblical times to the age of Twitter. He also explores a range of comic masterpieces, from the Book of Esther, Talmudic rabbi jokes, Yiddish satires, Borscht Belt skits, Seinfeld, and Curb Your Enthusiasm to the works of Sholem Aleichem, Franz Kafka, the Marx Brothers, Woody Allen, Joan Rivers, Philip Roth, Sarah Silverman and Jon Stewart.

"I hope people will learn something about how deep-rooted, how profound and in fact how curious Jewish comedy has been for the history of the Jewish people and Jewish civilization," Dauber said. "I also think that they can learn that Jewish humor has very deep roots and real continuities from the Bible up to today and there are a wide range of figures from all different continents who help participate in that tradition."

Call 305-237-3258 or visit miamibookfair.com for more information on these books, others of Jewish interest at the book fair and a full schedule with times, locations and prices.

The book fair is presented by The Center for Writing and Literature at **MDC**.

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