

# Jewish-themed books presented at fair



Affinity Konar presents her book "Mischling" at the Miami Book Fair. Courtesy (Courtesy)



By **Sergio Carmona**

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NOVEMBER 15, 2016, 11:38 AM

**S**outh Florida Jews should find book presentations at the 2016 Miami Book Fair fascinating.

The book fair, taking place through Nov. 20 at Miami-Dade College's (MDC) Wolfson Campus, 300 NE 2nd Ave. in Miami, includes several authors presenting Jewish-themed books.

Among the Jewish-themed books at this year's book fair is author Affinity Konar's novel "Mischling," which is set in 1944 and tells the story of twin sisters in Auschwitz who take refuge in their identical natures, comforting

themselves with the private language and shared games of their childhood. Konar will present the book on Nov. 20.

Konar, whose first-person narration in her book vividly captures the moments of these two sisters, said about her upcoming presentation: "I find the book difficult to speak about, and often find myself struggling to articulate my thoughts, even as they remain the same thoughts I carried throughout a decade-long writing process."

"This is how it should be, I think. But the stunning thing that has arisen from this attempt to discuss the unspeakable is that people are often very generous at these events; they relate their own stories and family histories and perspectives and in this way, the presentation often becomes less about a book that I've written, and more about the remembrances of others. So I would like to think that there's an experience there for attendees – I know that it has been extraordinarily meaningful for me."

Another Jewish-themed book is Robert Norman's "Star of David: The History, Mystery and Symbolism," which is an insightful examination of the familiar symbol, its history and significance, on Nov. 20.

Norman, who hopes the audience understands more about the history, mystery and symbolism of the Star of David, said his initial inspiration for this book came from his visit to Prague in 2009 and specifically the Altneuschul Synagogue.

"I began to recognize the early life of the Star of David and I was intrigued by how it came to represent the Jewish people. My curiosity grew into the first chapter and I used this as a springboard to complete the book."

There is also journalist Walter Shapiro's "Hustling Hitler: The Jewish Vaudevillian Who Fooled the Fuhrer," a fun, enjoyable read which tells the true story of how his great-uncle – a Jewish vaudeville impresario and exuberant con man – managed to cheat Hitler's agents in the run-up to World War II, presented on Nov. 20.

"What I'm really hoping to do is to convey to a new audience that this book is just a fun historical look about a person who was famous in Vaudeville," Shapiro said.

Shapiro continued: "I just want to really give a flavor of the book – and that's what I do in all of my talks – because I just think it's a fun part of Americana and in this age, God do we need fun."

Call 305-237-3258 or visit [miamibookfair.com](http://miamibookfair.com) for more information on these books, other Jewish-themed ones 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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