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For Immediate Release

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF SAN FRANCISCO ANNOUNCES
THE IDEAS AND LECTURE SERIES FOR SEASON 2009/10**

*All events are in Kanbar Hall or Fisher Family Hall unless otherwise noted
For tickets, call 415/292-1233 or visit www.jccsf.org/arts*

SAN FRANCISCO, July 20, 2008—The Jewish Community Center of San Francisco (JCCSF) today announced the literature and ideas for the 2009/10 season. Featured are a wide variety of writers, film directors, culinary celebrities, reporters, and political opinion makers. Highlights include programs with renowned authors **Lorrie Moore**, **Karen Armstrong** and **Amos Oz**; Bernie Madoff and SEC whistleblower, **Harry Markopolous**; and the long-awaited unveiling of cartoonist **Robert Crumb's** *The Book of Genesis*.

Author **Lorrie Moore** – Mon., Sept. 14, 8 pm

The season kicks off with the wickedly humorous and insightful Lorrie Moore, often known as “the writers’ writer,” in conversation with **Daniel Handler**, a.k.a. Lemony Snicket. Moore is the author of the story collections *Birds of America*, *Like Life*, and *Self-Help*, as well as the novels *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?* and *Anagrams*. Her new novel is *A Gate at the Stairs*. Tkts: \$10 - \$18

Harry Markopoulos on Bernie Madoff and the SEC – Wed., Sept. 16, 8 pm

Harry Markopoulos, the early, unheeded whistleblower of securities fraud by Bernard Madoff will talk about his experience with the Securities and Exchange Commission – how he repeatedly said it was not possible for Madoff to deliver the returns he claimed – and was ignored. He will also reveal his own thoughts on how to fix the system. Tkts: \$10 - \$30

Harvard Professor Michael J. Sandel - Tues., Sept. 22, 8 pm

One of America's foremost moral and political thinkers, **Professor Michael J. Sandel** graces Kanbar Hall for a journey in moral reasoning. Adapting his famous course on moral and political philosophy, Prof. Sandel discusses great philosophers and raises questions about individual rights, the claims of community, equality and law. Tkts: \$10 - \$18

Karen Armstrong – *The Case for God* - Fri., Sept. 25 at noon

Armstrong, one of the world's leading commentators on religious affairs, has written more than 20 books on Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and her own spiritual awakening. She believes religion is a force for harmony, and her recent book, *The Case for God*, explores the lengths humans go to in search of a sacred experience. Tkts: \$10 - 18

Julia Glass – Wed., Sept. 30, 8 pm

Author of *Three Junes* (National Book Award for Fiction), *The Whole World Over*, and *I See You Everywhere*, Julia Glass creates characters with whom you have no choice but to fall in love. She will appear in conversation with Michelle Richmond, author of *The New York Times* bestseller, *The Year of the Frog* and the award-winning story collection *The Girl in the Fall-Away Dress*. Tkts: \$10 -18.

Francine Prose on *Anne Frank* – Mon., Oct. 5, 8 pm

Author Francine Prose takes a revealing look at the work of an ambitious young writer, whose book might have been the first of many, if not for tragic circumstances. With the understanding of one great writer for another, Prose examines the artistry and enduring influence of *The Diary of a Young Girl*, and looks at a side of Anne Frank that not many have seen: the ambitious writer perfecting her craft. Tkts: \$10 - 18

Barry Gifford – Tues., Oct. 13, 8 pm

Poet, novelist and filmmaker **Barry Gifford** exposes the underbelly of the American dream. His novels *Wild at Heart* and *Perdita Durango* both became films, and he was co-writer with David Lynch on the film *Lost Highway*, and with Matt Dillon on *City of Ghosts*. His latest book, *The Imagination of the Heart*, ends the saga of Wild At Heart's Sailor and Lula: The Romeo and Juliet of the Deep South. Tkts: \$10 - 18

Tapas and Vino with Chef Gerald Hirogoyen - Wed., Oct. 14 at 4 pm

In celebration of San Francisco chef Gerald Hirogoyen's new book, *Pintxos: Small Plates in the Basque Tradition*, a tapas and wine event will take place at **Bocadillos**, 710 Montgomery Street. The book features distinctive California-inflected tapas for the home kitchen: salt cod with piperade, Serrano ham croquettes, scallops with apples, and lamb loin with kumquat chutney, exquisitely paired with well-matched wines. Tkts: \$45 & \$55

Gregory Maguire, author of *Wicked* – Mon., Oct. 19, 8 pm

Maguire's best-selling *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West* became the basis for the Tony Award-winning Broadway and international hit musical, *Wicked*. Maguire is also the author of several bestsellers: *Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister*, *Lost*, *Mirror Mirror*, and *Son of a Witch*, the sequel to *Wicked*. Tkts: \$10 - 18

Nobel Prize-winner, **Michael Bishop**: *The Future of Cancer* – Wed., Oct. 21, 8 pm

Former UCSF Chancellor Michael Bishop who won a Nobel Prize-winner in 1989 for cancer research, talks to KQED's Michael Krasny about the war on cancer, which remains a leading cause of death in developed nations. Bishop asserts that the fundamental cause of the disease has been identified, and we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Tkts: \$10 -18

Rabbi Harold S. Kushner *Conquering Fear* - Thurs., Oct. 22, 8 pm

The bestselling author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* now writes an illuminating book about fear—and how to overcome it. Combining his own thoughts with religious teachings and the true stories of people who have faced down their fears, Rabbi Kushner shows that fear can present extraordinary opportunities. Tkts: \$10 - 18

Film: *Waltz with Bashir* - Tues., Oct. 27, 8 pm screening, followed by Talkback with Director Ari Folman. The animated documentary *Waltz with Bashir* is part memoir, part history lesson, and part investigative journalism. Directed by Israeli film-maker Ari Folman, it examines the Lebanon War

of 1982, and in particular the massacre of Palestinians in refugee camps. The film won a Golden Globe, and an Oscar nomination in the category of Best Foreign Film. Tkts: \$10 – 18.

Legendary Cartoonist Robert Crumb: *The Book of Genesis* - Sat., Oct. 31, 8 pm

In the late '60s young Robert Crumb established himself as the founder of underground comics. His tales of misguided souls (Fritz the Cat, Mr. Natural, Devil Girl) vibrate with libidinal obsessions, feminist empowerment, racial tension, counterculture paranoia, and government repression. Crumb returns to unveil his long awaited *Book of Genesis – a word for word adaptation of the Bible*. No one under the age of 18 will be admitted. Tkts: \$50 & \$60 (Premium Seating) \$30 & \$35 (General Seating)

BOOKFEST - Sunday, Nov. 1 at 12:30 pm

A one-day literary extravaganza that connects readers with popular international and award-winning Jewish authors in a series of lectures, conversations and panels. This year BookFest includes the 2009 Moment Magazine Jewish Writer Awards. Among those featured are Allegra Goodman, Zoe Heller, Rich Cohen, and Anita Diamant. The event is FREE: - Pre-registration is required.

Eva Hoffman – Tues., Nov. 3, 8 pm

Novelist, cultural commentator, memoirist and historian **Eva Hoffman** was born immediately after the Second World War in Kraków, Poland to Holocaust survivors, who were repatriated along with some 200,000 Jewish refugees. She is the award-winning author of *Lost in Translation: A Life in a New Language*; *Shtetl: The Life and Death of a Small Town in the World of Polish Jewry*; and *Exit Into History: A Journey Through the New Eastern Europe*. Tkts: \$10 - 18

Jonathan Safran Foer – Thurs., Nov. 5, 8 pm

One of the most acclaimed young writers of his generation, Jonathan Safran Foer's first two novels *Everything is Illuminated* and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* were best sellers. His latest book *Eating Animals* is his first work of non-fiction, in which he comes face to face with realities about meat, its production, the environmental effects of eating animals, and much more. Few readers will ever look at their dinner plates quite the same way again. Tkts: \$10 - \$18.

ZYZZYVA Turns 25: Celebrating with Founder/Editor **Howard Junker** – Mon., Nov. 9, 8 pm

ZYZZYVA, the San Francisco journal of West Coast writers & artists, edited by Howard Junker, is celebrating its 25th year with a special issue devoted to its discoveries. Among the writers whose first stories were published in the magazine are Po Bronstein, Chitra Divakaruni, and Haruki Murakami. The celebration will include ZZZYVA first-timers Kevin Bentley, Michelle Falkoff, Drew Cushing and Chris Mittelsdaedt. FREE: – Pre-registration required.

Amos Oz – Wed., Nov. 11 (Cocktail reception at 7 pm – Lecture at 8 pm)

Internationally celebrated Israeli author Amos Oz stirred the literary world with his memoir *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, a chronicle of his childhood and painful memories. The best-known novelist in Israel, Amos Oz is also one of its most eloquent proponents of co-existence in the Middle East. Tkts: Premium Seating: \$60 & \$70 General: \$25 - \$30

Diane Frankenstein *Getting Children to Love Reading* – Thurs., Nov. 12 at 6:30 pm

Two decades as a consultant in children's literature taught Frankenstein that children need to talk about the books they read. Her new book *Reading Together: Everything You Need to Know to Raise a Child Who Loves to Read* gives parents the tools to choose and discuss books in a way that will help children develop a lifelong love of reading. Tkts: \$10 & \$15

Barry Jenkins and Graham Leggat - Mon., November 16 – Film 6 pm, Conversation 8 pm.

Barry Jenkins' feature film debut, *Medicine for Melancholy*, is, in many respects, a cinematic love letter to San Francisco, his adopted city. But the film also addresses the challenges of being black in San Francisco, which has the lowest African American population of any major U.S. city. Following a screening of *Medicine for Melancholy*, Barry Jenkins joins San Francisco Film Society Director Graham Leggat for an evening of provocative conversation. Tkts: \$10 - 18

The Roots of Latin Jazz with **Bobby Sanabria** - Thurs., November 19, 8 pm

Drummer, percussionist, composer, and multiple Grammy winner Bobby Sanabria has performed with a veritable Who's Who in the world of jazz and Latin music (Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente, Paquiti D'Rivera), as well as with his own critically acclaimed ensembles. A remarkable jazz historian, Sanabria showcases (with sound effects) the roots of Latin Jazz, including some surprising Jewish ones. Tkts: \$10 - 18

Meir Shalev – Fri., Nov. 20 at 2 pm

The works of acclaimed Israeli author Meir Shalev have been translated into 16 languages, and following publication of his recent novel *A Pigeon and a Boy*, the New York Times wrote that he “creates a world that has the richness of invention and the obsessiveness of dreams.” Tkts: \$10 - 18

TV Critic **Tim Goodman** *In My Not-so Humble Opinion* – Mon., Nov. 23, 8 pm

In what has become a favorite JCCSF annual tradition, San Francisco Chronicle TV critic **Tim Goodman** is joined by self-professed television addict **George Dobbins** to uncover the best and worst of the current season. Complete with clips and side-splitting commentary. Tkts: \$10 - 18

Charles Bronfman *The Art of Giving* - Thurs., Dec. 3, 8 pm

Renowned philanthropist and founder of Birthright Israel, Charles Bronfman offers fresh insight into creating a business plan that works regardless of income level, and why one needs to understand philanthropy as a business undertaking as well as a personal process. Tkts: \$10 - 18

Michael Medved and **Norman Podhoretz** on *The Lies of Liberalism* – Mon., Dec. 7, 8 pm

Radio host Michael Medved (*The 10 Big Lies About America*) claims that the public's contempt for free enterprise stems from the fact that most people accept at least one of five big lies about American business. Medved joins neoconservative Norman Podhoretz (*World War IV*) to argue that Americans should feel grateful rather than guilty about our corporate system. Tkts: \$10 - 18

Michael Pollan In conversation with Dr. Dean Ornish – Tues., Dec. 8, 8 pm

Michael Pollan, the author of *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*, claims that instead of food, Americans are eating “edible food-like substances,” and that the Western diet has traded food for nutrients and common sense for confusion. He is joined in conversation by Dr. Dean Ornish, founder and president of the Preventive Medicine Research Institute in Sausalito.

Tkts: \$10 – 18

Upcoming in 2010:

Mon., Jan. 11: NPR's **Andrei Codrescu** *Impractical Lessons for Practical Living*

Thurs., Jan 14: **Dr. David Kessler** *The End of Overeating: Taking Control of the Insatiable American Appetite*

Wed., Jan 20 at 2 pm: *What Color is Your Parachute*'s **Richard Bolles**

Thurs., Jan 28: **David Sax** – *Save the Deli* – Investigating the demise of a tradition

Wed., Feb. 3: **Chris Cleave** *Little Bee*

Mon., Feb. 22: U.S. Poet Laureate **Kay Ryan**

Tues., Feb. 23: **Dr. Abraham Verghese** *Healing Powers of Bedside Medicine*

Thurs., Feb. 25: **Annie Barrows** *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*

Wed., March 3: NPR's **Susan Stamberg**, Host of Morning Edition

Wed., March 17: *Pig Hunt* Screening and talkback with co-director **Robert Mailer Anderson**

Wed., March 24: Middle East analyst **Aaron David Miller** *The Much Too Promised Land*

Thurs., April 8: The Alfred Manovill Memorial Lecture with Holocaust scholar **Michael Berenbaum**

Mon., April 12: *The Case for Raising Compassionate Children* with psychologist **Richard Weissbourd**

For literary insight by Director of Lectures and Literature Barbara Lane, visit twitter.com/blanejccsf.

The **JCCSF** located at 3200 California Street (at Presidio), has been serving the Bay Area since 1877 with programs that transform people's lives – mind, body and spirit. A home away from home for San Franciscans of all faiths and backgrounds, the JCCSF welcomes more than 5,000 guests each day, presenting them with world-class cultural events, a state-of-the-art fitness center, and hundreds of inspiring educational, recreational and social programs. Programs are made possible through generous community support, enabling the JCCSF to provide free and low-cost programs as well as generous financial assistance – ensuring that the Center is accessible, welcoming and nurturing to all. For more information about the JCCSF, visit www.jccsf.org.

Subscription series tickets for the 2009/10 Arts & Ideas Season will be available August 3, and single tickets go on sale August 31. To order, call the **JCCSF Box Office at 415/292-1233**. For additional information, visit www.jccsf.org/arts

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