



Five Fiction Authors Selected as Finalists for \$100,000 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature

New York, NY – The Jewish Book Council, administrator of the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, is pleased to announce the selection of five finalists for the prestigious Sami Rohr Prize. This year, the prize of \$100,000 will be awarded to an emerging writer of fiction. This is the largest prize of its kind in the Jewish literary world, and one of the largest literary prizes worldwide. In 2006, in celebration of Sami Rohr's 80th birthday, his children and grandchildren inaugurated the Sami Rohr Prize to honor his lifelong love of Jewish literature.

The five finalists have been selected by a panel of distinguished judges drawn from the literary and academic community. The names of the judges will be released upon the announcement of the Winner. An awards ceremony will be held this spring. Authors were selected based on their demonstration of a fresh vision and evidence of future potential to further contribute to the Jewish literary community.

The inaugural Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature was awarded in 2007 to fiction writer Tamar Yellin for *The Genizah at the House of Shepher* (Toby Press). The 2008 Sami Rohr Prize was awarded to non-fiction writer Lucette Lagnado for *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* (Ecco). The prize considers fiction and non-fiction in alternating years. The prize honors an emerging author in the field of Jewish literature who has written a book of exceptional literary merit that stimulates an interest in themes of Jewish concern.

THE FICTION FINALISTS:

- Elisa Albert for *The Book of Dahlia* (Free Press)
- Sana Krasikov for *One More Year* (Spiegel & Grau)
- Anne Landsman for *The Rowing Lesson* (Soho Press)
- Dalia Sofer for *The Septembers of Shiraz* (Ecco)
- Anya Ulinich for *Petropolis* (Viking Penguin)

ABOUT SAMI ROHR:

After spending his early years in post-WWII Europe, Sami Rohr moved to Bogota, Colombia, where he was a leading real estate developer for over 30 years. He currently lives in Florida and continues to be very active in various business endeavors internationally. His philanthropic commitment to Jewish education and community-building throughout the world is renowned. This Prize is a gift by his family to honor his love of Jewish writing, and to help encourage the continuation of the magnificent legacy of the People of the Book.

For more information, please contact Geri Gindea at Geri@jewishbooks.org or visit www.jewishbookcouncil.org

