



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Debbie Pesses  
Jewish Enrichment Director  
(504) 897-0143  
debbie@nojcc.org

---

### People of the Book festival to return for its' 9<sup>th</sup> year

NEW ORLEANS, JCC –November 12 – 19, 2008 – **9th Annual People of the Book Festival – a Celebration of Books and Authors. A week of Author Presentations and a Jewish Bookstore.**

Wednesday, November 12 - The Booklover's Luncheon, featuring Rabbi Sherre' Hirsch, author of "We Plan and God Laughs"-The old Yiddish proverb, "We plan, God laughs," expresses a truth everyone can relate to. At every stage of life we make plans, setting out where we want to go and imagining what we will be like when we have "arrived." But things have a way of turning out not quite as we hoped or expected.

Hirsch teaches the importance of letting go and recognizing that even the most ordinary life is extraordinary in the eyes of God. She makes no foolish promise that life will turn out as we plan, but shows that with hope, faith, and belief, we can change our lives for the better and make a positive difference in the lives of others. .

*12:00 PM- Uptown JCC- \$30 – Co-Sponsored by the Linda Zoller Memorial Fund of the Jewish Endowment Foundation*

Thursday, November 13 – Highlight Event and Patron Party , Featuring David Andelman, author of "A Shattered Peace: Versailles 1919 and the Price We Pay Today," a look at the origins of many of today's deepest global crises including the war in Iraq.

In the wake of the First World War, leaders of the Western powers — Britain, France, Italy, and America — assembled in Paris to redraw the maps of the world. From the ruins of the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires, they meatballed together Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia; they invented Iraq and Jordan ex nihilo. They ignored Indochina. They knew little about the religions, ethnic loyalties, and national aspirations of the people affected by their decisions. Had they devoted a tenth the mental energy to understanding these issues that they did to their vigorous carnal exertions, argues David A. Andelman in "A Shattered Peace: Versailles 1919 and the Price We Pay Today" the world today would be a safer place.

David is the editor of World Policy Journal and a former American executive editor at Forbes.com and was a foreign correspondent for the New York Times in New York and Washington, Southeast Asia, and Eastern Europe, and a Paris Correspondent for CBS News.. He has also worked for The New York Daily News, the public relations agency [Burston Marsteller](#), CNBC and Smallcapcenter.com. He has written for Harpers, The Atlantic, the New Republic and is a graduate of Harvard and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the National Press Club, and the Overseas Press Club. In the summer of 2008, Andelman was named editor of World Policy Journal.

*7 PM – Patron Wine and Dessert Event - \$100 single Patron, \$150 couple Patron*

*8 PM – General event - \$15 – Uptown JCC*

Sunday, November 16 – **Camp at the J – A Book Event for the Whole Family** – featuring author, **Roger Bennett**, **“CampCamp – Where Fantasy Island Meets Lord of the Flies”** .

The CAMP CAMP Project is a national photographic exhibit and accompanying book piecing together camp photographs from the seventies, eighties, and nineties to create an American story of who we are and how we got to be this way. A look at how Jewish summer camp is transformative, how the relationships we form and the experiences we have shape whom we become. Great pictures and great stories ! Take a trip back in time to your own camp experiences, Relive those great summers! Join us!

In addition, younger children will be able to create their own camp memories with arts and crafts based on the well-known Sammy Spider and Fancy Nancy books. Appropriate “canteen” food will be served, including “bug juice” and ice cream!

*4 PM —Uptown JCC- \$10 per family- The public is encouraged to submit their own camp pictures and stories- Co-Sponsored by URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp of Utica, MS. which is featured in the book.*

Monday, November 17 – **Bagels and Books- featuring New York Times Reporter, Lily Koppel, presenting , “The Red Leather Diary”** - Ever since she climbed into a dumpster outside of her apartment building and rescued a 75-year-old diary, kept by a young Jewish woman in the 1930s, Lily Koppel strongly believed that this story was an important one to tell. THE RED LEATHER DIARY: Reclaiming a Life Through the Pages of a Lost Journal is about her discovery of Florence Wolfson's diary, the amazing life that is portrayed in its pages and the return of the diary to its owner at 90. The book speaks to the significance and "private truths" of all of our lives.

*10:30 AM – Uptown Center - \$10, including bagels*

Wednesday, November 19

**Nursery School Nosh** (9AM-12PM) Kids- bring your parents to shop while you enjoy a Nosh and listen to the latest stories in Jewish children’s literature. Uptown JCC – Free.

**Pizza and Pages** (3-6PM ) Enjoy pizza as you “flip” through the pages of great books. Specially featured books for school age kids. Uptown JCC – Free.

**Final Book Event - Author, Scott Lasensky** Senior Research associate at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.presents: [\*\*Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace: American Leadership in the Middle East\*\*](#). This new books has been called a "tour de force" and a must-read for "today's leadership (and tomorrow's)". Lasensky's work focuses on issues relating to the Middle East and U.S. foreign policy toward the region. He has lectured and written extensively on the Arab-Israeli conflict and on America’s role in the Middle East. He is also the director of the Institute’s [\*\*"Iraq and Its Neighbors"\*\*](#) project.

He has taught at Georgetown University and Mount Holyoke College, and served as a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and the Brookings Institution.

A recipient of the Yitzhak Rabin-Shimon Peres Peace Award from Tel Aviv University (1999), Lasensky is a graduate of UCLA and earned his Ph.D. in international relations from Brandeis University.

*8 PM – Uptown Center - \$10- Co-Sponsored by the Jewish Studies Department of Tulane University*

THE JCC BOOKSTORE HOURS

Wednesday, November 12 – 9 AM – 6 PM  
Thursday, November 13 – 5 PM – 9 PM  
Sunday, November 16 – 9 AM – 12 Noon and 3 PM – 6 PM  
Monday, November 17 – 9 AM – 12 PM  
Wednesday, November 19 – 9 AM – 12 PM – 3 PM – 8 PM

ALL BOOKS PROVIDED BY OCTAVIA BOOKS. THE JCC WILL OPEN BEFORE AND FOLLOWING ALL EVENTS. ALL AUTHOR BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AND FOR AUTOGRAPHING IN THE BOOKSTORE.

*We are also grateful to the Feil Family Foundation for support of this event and all Jewish cultural programming for the JCC.*

*The Jewish Community Center of New Orleans is a non-profit organization that continues to serve the entire New Orleans community with quality programming in the areas of pre-school education, daycare, summer programming, adult programming, physical education, public affairs, political forums, lectures and especially Jewish education. The mission of the Greater New Orleans Jewish Community Center is to promote and insure the well being of our Jewish community and to instill an understanding of Judaism and its heritage by providing a Center where all can enjoy, learn, experience and share in quality activities in a Jewish environment.*

###