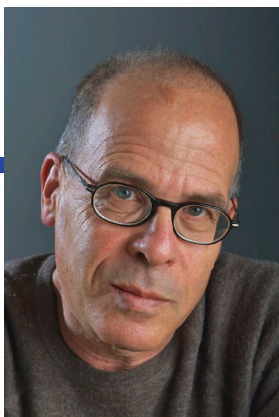


# MSU Symposium on Modern Hebrew and Israeli Literature



*Celebrating the Irwin T. and Shirley Holtzman  
Israeli Literature Collection and Archive  
at the MSU Libraries*

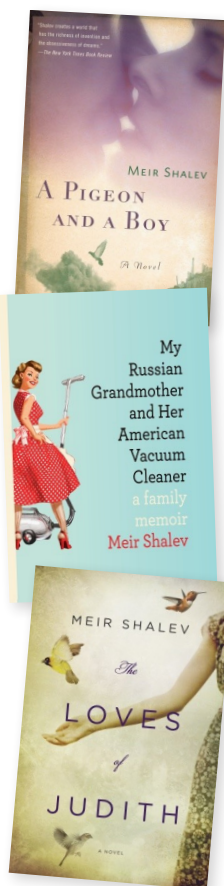




**Meir Shalev** is one of Israel's most celebrated novelists. He was born in 1948 in Nahalal, Israel's first moshav, and much of his work focuses on this early generation of Israelis. Shalev's books include *A Pigeon and a Boy*, *The Loves*

*of Judith* (Four Meals), *Fontanelle*, *Alone In the Desert*, *But A Few Days*, and *Esau*. His book *Russian Romance* (The Blue Mountain) is one of the top five bestsellers in Israeli publishing history and was reprinted in 2011. That same year he published a family memoir, *My Russian Grandmother and her American Vacuum Cleaner*. His works have been translated into twenty languages and are sold around the world. His writing is often compared to Gabriel Garcia Marquez for his ability to "create worlds inhabited by the richness of invention and obsessiveness of dreams." (*New York Times Book Review*)

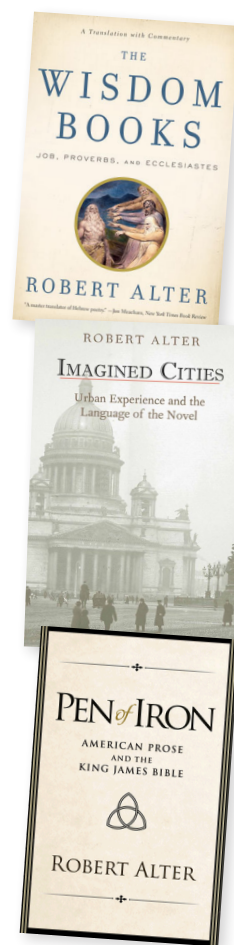
Meir Shalev is also a columnist with the Israeli daily *Yediot Ahronot* and has lectured on literature and the Hebrew language at Jewish Studies programs nationwide. He has received, among other awards, the Prime Minister's Prize (Israel); the Chiavari (Italy); the WIZO Prize in France, Israel, and Italy; and the Brenner Prize (2006)—the highest Israeli literary recognition—for his novel, *A Pigeon and a Boy*. He lives in Jerusalem and in the north of Israel with his wife and children, and is a motorcycle and Jeep enthusiast.



**Robert Alter** is Professor in the Graduate School and Emeritus Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of California at Berkeley, where he has taught since 1967. He is a member of the

American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the Council of Scholars of the Library of Congress, and is past president of the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics. He has twice been a Guggenheim Fellow, has been a Senior Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities, a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem, and Old Dominion Fellow at Princeton University. Robert Alter has written widely on the European novel from the eighteenth century to the present, on contemporary American fiction, and on modern Hebrew literature. He has also written extensively on literary aspects of the Bible.

His twenty-four published books include two prize-winning volumes on biblical narrative and poetry and award-winning translations of Genesis and of the Five Books of Moses. Among his publications over the past twenty-one years are *Necessary Angels: Tradition and Modernity in Kafka, Benjamin, and Scholem* (1991), *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel* (1999), *Canon and Creativity: Modern Writing and the Authority of Scripture* (2000), *The Five Books of Moses: A Translation with Commentary* (2004), *Imagined Cities* (2005), *The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary* (2007), *Pen of Iron: American Prose and the King James Bible* (2010), and *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes: A Translation with Commentary* (2010). In 2009, he received the Robert Kirsch Award from the *Los Angeles Times* for lifetime contribution to American letters.



## Israeli Literature from the Holtzman Collection

On Exhibit April 1-26, 2013 • MSU Main Library Special Collections Reading Room  
Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

# MSU Symposium on Modern Hebrew and Israeli Literature

**Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. ■ MSU Main Library, North Conference Room W449**

**Israeli novelist Meir Shalev: Jacob—The Lover Who Lost His Patience**

**Wednesday, April 10 ■ Wells Hall, Room B-342**

9:00–9:50 a.m. Welcome breakfast (provided)

10:00–10:20 a.m. Opening comments by Marc Bernstein, Kenneth Waltzer, and Karin Wurst

10:20 a.m.–12 noon **On Meir Shalev's Oeuvre**

**Robert Alter:** The Innovative Turn of Meir Shalev's Fiction

**Arieh Saposnik:** Out of a Russian Novel, into a Novel Hebrew: Hebrew Culture and the Remaking of Jewish Language, Land and Self

Respondent: Meir Shalev

12:00 noon–1:20 p.m. Lunch (Provided for all attendees; no RSVP required)

1:30–3:00 p.m. **1920 to 2020—Formation and Transformation of the Hebrew Literary Canon**

**Miryam Segal:** One Thousand Arms and the Small Group of Women (How Labor Expedited the Rise of Women's Poetry)

**Rachel Harris:** Is There Still a Canon?: Eshkol Nevo's *Neuland*

**Ranen Omer-Sherman:** Jewish and Muslim Interdependencies in a New Generation of Israeli Writers

3:00–3:20 p.m. Refreshments

3:30–5:00 p.m. **The New Hebrew a Century Later: Ethics, and Ideology and the Limits of Power**

**Daniel Statman:** 'The Spirit of the IDF': The Moral Challenges of War

**Guy Meirson:** *Rock The Casbah*: The First 'First Intifada' Film

**Yaakov Herskovitz:** Colonizing Ideologies: The Settlements Between Amos Oz and Asaf Gavron

**Wednesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. ■ MSU Main Library, North Conference Room (W449)**

**Literary scholar and translator Robert Alter: Hebrew Poetry Rewriting Job**

*All refreshments and meals served at the Symposium are prepared and served under kosher supervision.*

**Rachel S. Harris** is Assistant Professor of Israeli Literature and Culture at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

**Yaakov Herskovitz** received his bachelors degree in Hebrew literature and philosophy from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a masters degree in literature from Tel-Aviv University, where he wrote a thesis on subject formation in fiction of Michah Yosef Berdyczewski. He has taught literature at Israeli secondary schools, and is currently a PhD student at the University of Michigan,

where his research focuses on the formative years in the revival of modern Hebrew literature.

**Guy Meirson** is an Israeli screenwriter and playwright, on the faculty of the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School in Jerusalem. During the Spring 2013 semester, he is the Schusterman Visiting Israeli Artist in the Jewish Studies Program at Michigan State University.

**Ranen Omer-Sherman** is Professor of English & Jewish Studies at the University of Miami.

**Arieh Saposnik** is Associate Professor and Director of the Younes and Soraya Center for Israel Studies Chair in the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures at UCLA. He also holds UCLA's Gilbert Chair in Israel Studies.

**Miryam Segal** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Classical, Middle Eastern, and Asian Languages and Cultures at Queens College of the City University of New York.

**Daniel Statman** is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Haifa and Research Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem.

## Irwin T. and Shirley Holtzman Israeli Literature Collection and Archive

In 2011, the MSU Libraries and MSU's Jewish Studies Program received a generous and very welcome gift: the Irwin T. and Shirley Holtzman Israeli Literature Collection and Archive.

The Holtzman Collection represents many years of passionate work by Irwin Holtzman, a Detroit-area builder and business owner who died in 2010. Holtzman's collection of Israeli literature was inspired by a 1973 visit to Israel, and over the years he became a dedicated supporter of Israeli authors. Many of the volumes of fiction, poetry, and drama he collected are inscribed by the author, and the collection also includes literary journals and literary criticism.

The published works are accompanied by a wealth of primary resources available in the Holtzman Archive in the MSU Libraries' Special Collections. These include manuscripts of poetry and drama; posters advertising literary events; political cartoons and other original artwork; and Irwin Holtzman's

extensive correspondence with many important Israeli literary figures, including Amos Oz, A.B. Yehoshua, Amalia Kahana-Carmon, and Yoram Kaniuk.

The MSU Libraries' Special Collections Reading Room will exhibit selections from the Holtzman Collection and Archive, including both published works and primary resources, from April 1–26. The Special Collections Reading Room is in the Main Library, East Wing, Ground Floor. Hours: 9 am–5 pm, Monday–Friday, and 1–5 pm Sunday.

Please consider supporting the **MSU Libraries Endowment** or the **Jewish Studies Program Endowment**. Endowment income allows us to enrich the learning environment for MSU students, and reach out to the public, with timely and relevant programming such as today's Symposium.

For more information, please contact **Seth Martin**, Director of Development, Libraries and IT Services (517.884.6446; [marti981@msu.edu](mailto:marti981@msu.edu)) or **Bridget Paff**, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, College of Arts and Letters (517.353.4725; [paff@msu.edu](mailto:paff@msu.edu)).



The MSU Symposium on Hebrew and Israeli Literature is sponsored by the MSU Libraries and the MSU Jewish Studies Program.  
The Symposium was made possible by a special gift from Ritta Rosenberg.

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