

For Immediate Release
Friday, November 14, 2008

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San José Public Library to Host Jewish Literature Reading and Discussion Series

“Modern Marvels: Jewish Adventures in the Graphic Novel”

SAN JOSE, Calif. — San José Public Library will host a free five-part reading and discussion series called **“Modern Marvels: Jewish Adventures in the Graphic Novel,”** at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 150 East San Fernando Road, at South Fourth Street in downtown San José. The series is one of several exploring the unifying theme, “Let’s Talk About It: Jewish Literature – Identity and Imagination.” San José Public Library is one of over 250 libraries nationwide receiving grants to host the series developed by Nextbook and the American Library Association (ALA).

The series explores Jewish literature and culture through scholar-led discussions of contemporary and classic books on a common theme. The first program will look at *Contract with God* by Will Eisner and will be held on **Sunday, January 25 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

“We are delighted to have been chosen to host this unique series that will give residents an opportunity to discuss themes in Jewish literature with fellow community members and with the help of a well-qualified scholar and guest lecturers,” said Deborah Estreicher, program coordinator. “The past two modules that we offered in the Let’s Talk About It” discussion program series were very well received. It’s like taking a class, but without the stress of being graded!”

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Additional books will be discussed once a month on Sundays, as follows:

February 22: *Maus I/II* by Art Spiegelman

March 22: *Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer: Stories* by Ben Katchor

April 26: *The Quitter* by Harvey Pekar

May 31st: *The Rabbi's Cat* by Joann Sfar

For details or to pre-register, please visit www.SJLibrary.org or contact Deborah Estreicher by email (Deborah.Estreicher@sjlibrary.org) or phone (408-808-2357).

About the Facilitator and Guest Lecturers

Professor Victoria Harrison, PhD—Coordinator of Jewish Studies at San José State University (SJSU)—will open each session with introductory information on the book and the author, and offer ways to link all the books of the series. Harrison received her PhD with distinction in English from Rutgers University. She teaches Jewish Studies at SJSU and has published widely on poetry, as well as American and Jewish studies.

Each session will include a lecture and discussion by Professor Harrison or a guest speaker. Guest speakers will include:

David Mesher: SJSU Prof English (Eisner *A Contract with God*), Jan. 25.

Dalia Sirkin: SJSU Lecturer English Dept. (Katchor, *Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer: Stories*), Mar 22

Mary Salzman, SJSU Lecturer in Art History (Sfar, *The Rabbi's Cat*), May 31

About the Library

San José Public Library system (SJPL) is the largest public library system between San Francisco and Los Angeles on California's Central Coast. It serves a culturally diverse population of 974,000 in the nation's 10th largest city. Recipient of the prestigious national Library of the Year award, SJPL is recognized across the country for its innovation and leadership in the field and is one of the busiest libraries systems nationwide, with an annual checkout rate of more than 14 million items.

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