CREATING A THRIVING ECOSYSTEM TO SUPPORT JEWISH AUTHORS POST-10/7[1]

Handout Prepared by Erika Dreifus for JBC Jewish Writers' Conference | November 8, 2026

A few opening thoughts:

- **An** ecosystem to support Jewish authors existed long before October 7, 2023; Jewish Book Council itself has long been its cornerstone. Over the years, I have tried to map out elements of this ecosystem myself (https://www.erikadreifus.com/resources/jewish-writing/).
- Since October 7, that ecosystem has become **even more important**.
- It has also grown **exponentially**, with new projects of myriad sorts and purposes taking shape. Such projects are the focus of this handout, which captures **"only"** 36 of them.[2]
- The **full ecosystem** – with its more established and newer components – remains to be mapped out, and amplified, in a comprehensive way. That is something that will help it thrive. And that is a project that I am currently incubating.

36 Post-10/7 Additions to the Jewish Literary Ecosystem

New Literary(ish) Magazines/Publications

1. *Balagan* (https://writingonthewall.io/balagan/). "BALAGAN, meaning 'chaos' in Hebrew, is Writing on the Wall's new quarterly literary magazine."
2. *Judith* (https://judithmagazine.substack.com/). This "Jewish magazine of literature, arts, and culture" is the brainchild of Elissa Wald.
3. *Mizmor: A Journal of Jewish Formal Poetry* (https://mizmorjournal.substack.com/): Founded by Benjamin Rose "for one reason: to create a dedicated space for Jewish poets writing, studying, and critiquing the art of metrical verse."
4. *Modern Jewess* (https://modern-jewess.com/). Co-founders Rabbi Diana Fersko and Rabbi Karen Glazer Perolman produce this print creation "which explores what it means to be a Jewish woman today."
5. *The Nu Review* (https://www.instagram.com/thenureviewofbooks/). Stewarded by Jordan Davis, this is another print-only publication (do send an inquiry to the email address provided on Instagram if you're interested in learning more/receiving a sample copy).
6. *OfTheBook* (https://ofthebookpress.com/). "OfTheBook emerged in the aftermath of October 7, born out of a desire to amplify Jewish voices in an increasingly hostile world, and to preserve and celebrate our culture, heritage, and wisdom. Founded by British writer & editor Susan Gordon, OfTheBook has two main strands: the re-publication of canon texts with new introductions and commentary, and an online journal publishing short fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry."
7. *On Being Jewish Now* (https://onbeingjewishnow.substack.com/). Managed by Zibby Media, this publication complements the 2024 essay anthology *On Being Jewish Now: Reflections from Authors and Advocates*, in which 75 contributors "shared what it means

[1] Listings are provided for informational purposes, with an awareness of the varied interests of this audience. Please do not equate a listing's presence within this handout with a personal endorsement!

[2] You'll find additional examples of newer elements of this environment mentioned within Hilary Danailova's recent *Hadassah* magazine article: https://www.hadassahmagazine.org/2026/10/29/a-new-jewish-media-ecosystem-pushes-back/.

and how it feels to be Jewish now, especially…after the 10/7/23 attacks. But that was just the beginning." The Substack publishes additional "original essays that will collectively shed light on this topic and make everyone feel less alone."

8. *Parchment* (https://www.parchmentmag.ca/). After more than a decade's absence, this Canadian-Jewish literary journal re-launched in 2026. As reported in *The Canadian Jewish News*, the new publisher, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS), "worked to preserve links to the previous edition while reimagining the operation for a publishing reality of the post-October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks in Israel."
9. *The Poison Well* (https://thepoisonwell.substack.com/). Also launched in 2026, this publication is "dedicated to Jewish-themed stories with a touch of darkness. Often, those are from the horror, mystery and thriller genres—but we are perfectly open-minded. *The Poison Well* began when we noticed how underrepresented Jewish themes are in the genres we like most….Our name is taken from the medieval conspiracy that Jewish people poisoned wells, a tongue-in-cheek reclamation of the most horrifying thing there is: baseless antisemitism. But your submissions don't have to be about antisemitism, or feature it in any way—in fact, we welcome stories on diverse subjects, with varied themes and settings."
10. "Witnessing" series (https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/with-tag/3361). Curated by the Jewish Book Council, these pieces "from Israeli authors and authors in Israel, as well as the experiences of Jewish writers around the globe in the aftermath of October 7th," appear on PB Daily, the digital arm of *Paper Brigade*, JBC's print journal.
11. *Verklempt!* (https://verklemptmag.substack.com/about). A "magazine of Jewish culture" that has recently announced a new publishing schedule: quarterly in print and weekly on Substack.
12. *Yad Mirzah* (https://www.yadmizrahmag.com/). Describes itself as "the first and only international Sephardic and Mizrahi literary magazine."
13. *The YARID* (https://theyarid.org/). Focused on "collegiate voices," this Harvard-based outlet offers "a forum for serious intellectual and imaginative inquiry."

New Literary/Literary-Adjacent Ventures

14. Am Yisrael Chai (https://www.ayckidsbooks.org/). Initiated by Michelle Orelle, this is a children's-book project. "Following the events of October 7, 2023, the pressing need for more children's books about Israel has become urgent. To help strengthen pride in and connection to Israel, we decided to do something about it. We are gifting 18,000 books about Israel to children in North America. The costs will be covered by donations, some books are printed in Israel to support the local economy and some books are purchased from publishers outside Israel."
15. Artists Against Antisemitism (AAA; https://www.theartistsagainstantisemitism.com/). This is "a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded by a group of Jewish authors in the aftermath of October 7th. Our mission is to support, elevate, amplify, and advocate for Jewish artists by fostering community, showcasing artistic work, building bridges to other organizations, providing grants, and ensuring that Jewish voices are represented across the cultural world. Our roots are in the literary arts, but our goal is to support Jewish artists in every discipline, through our own efforts or by connecting them to partner organizations." NB: Not to be confused with other similarly-named organizations! (And a disclosure: I am a board member.)
16. The Five Books Podcast (https://www.fivebookspod.org). Hosted by Tali Rosenblatt-Cohen, this podcast features "compelling interviews with Jewish authors about the books that inspired and shaped them. From novels that shifted their perspective to childhood

books that guided their journeys, these conversations illuminate the profound role of literature in constructing character, both on the page and in our lives."

17. Golda (https://www.goldaguide.com/). Stephanie Butnick's GOLDA "is a Jewish lifestyle destination built around the idea that Jewish life should feel bright, beautiful, and full of meaning." Includes significant bookish content.
18. Jewish Authors Summit. Hosted by 70 Faces Media, this free, virtual event does not currently have a static homepage. If you're interested in being added to a mailing list for news of the 2027 event (the 2026 Summit was held in October), email summit@70facesmedia.org with your request.
19. Jewish Joy LLC (https://jewish-joy.com/). Helmed by Jean Meltzer, its mission "is to create spaces where Jewish creatives can meet the audiences that want to support them. Through our various initiatives, we uplift Jewish voices, fight back against erasure and antisemitism, and champion joy as an act of resilience–turning the act of commerce into an act of connection."
20. Jewish Writers Caucus (within the Association of Writers and Writing Programs [AWP]; https://conference.awpwriter.org/2026/literary_caucuses.cfm). Invites writers "to meet each other, discuss challenges and opportunities, share resources, and compile suggestions for how AWP can better include and support Jewish writers, all in a space of community welcoming to Jews of all denominations, degrees of religious engagement, races, ethnicities, sexualities, genders, socioeconomic backgrounds, and political affiliations. Organized by Yetzirah: A Hearth for Jewish Poetry, in affiliation with the Jewish Book Council."
21. JTS MFA in Creative Writing (https://www.jtsa.edu/mfa-creative-writing). "Inspired by the rich tradition of Jewish storytelling, this low-residency MFA welcomes writers working in a range of genres and forms—from fiction, poetry, memoir, and nonfiction to playwriting, screenwriting, performance, songs, and work that lives in between."
22. Machshavah (https://www.machshavah.org/). "Drawing on the salon traditions of Rahel Varnhagen's Berlin, Gertrude Stein's Paris, and the Algonquin Round Table's New York, Machshavah convenes diverse thinkers for structured conversations that resist both echo chambers and superficial debate." Founded by poet and memoirist Shamar Hill, the salon series includes (but is not limited to) literary-related content.
23. New Jerusalem Review (https://newjerusalemreview.substack.com/). Michael Weingrad curates this Substack to spotlight "the intensity and creative ferment of Israeli poetry, literary culture, and art" for an English-language audience, posting "one or two new translations each month, with a focus on contemporary poetry."
24. Share the Joy of Jewish Books. This one has no dedicated website or public-facing social-media presence. Twice each month, authors Liza Wiemer and/or Chana Stiefel encourage members of select Facebook groups to report on how they've most recently "Shared the Joy of Jewish Books" by uplifting the work of authors other than themselves. But you don't need to be on Facebook to find inspiration in the list of potential activities: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L6YGN5Jjc_BvpB0X3QlwPie5dBXj_08UOrJrV83B0LA/edit?tab=t.0
25. Writing on the Wall (https://writingonthewall.io/). "Writing on the Wall was born after an impromptu writing workshop led by Professor William Kolbrener after October 7th. Hearing the power of writers' stories, Writing on the Wall was born. Bill (the Jerusalem religious American) and creative director, Ronit Eitan (the Tel Aviv secular Israeli), agree that fighting antisemitism starts with joining our different voices together through poetry and art. Our diversity is our strength – encounter the complexity and the layered reality that is Israel today."

Additional Efforts (including new and now-ongoing projects from existing organizations; roughly chronological order)

26. Jewish Kidlit Mavens "Am Yisrael Chai" posts: During fall 2023, this Facebook group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/JewishKidlitMavens/), to which I belong, added a feature to its weekly publishing schedule: a dedicated "Am Yisrael Chai" post with introductory text as follows: "Want to talk about the Israel-Hamas war, or antisemitism? Make a comment below. Separate posts on these topics will be deleted (unless they are DIRECTLY RELATED to Jewish kidlit)." This has allowed the group to continue to exchange relevant information and resources (and mutual support) in the course of the group's ordinary functions.
27. Jewish Book Council's "Reporting Antisemitism in Literary Spaces" mechanism (https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/pb-daily/reporting-antisemitism-in-the-literary-world). Launched in February 2024, this is an initiative "for authors, publishers, publicists, agents, editors, and readers to report antisemitic literary-related incidents. Antisemitism is defined as prejudice against or hatred of Jewish people. This can take many forms, such as verbal or written language, in-person or online harassment, vandalism, and violence directed at a person or institution because they are Jewish**. We encourage reports of both smaller-scale incidents** (such as an individual getting review-bombed because their book includes Jewish content) **and larger incidents** (such as Jewish literary professionals facing threats of intimidation and violence) (original emphasis). At this point we're gathering information, so please know that even if there is no action taken at this time, your story is part of an essential and growing record that will provide evidence of the impact of the current climate in the Jewish literary world. The hope is that, by reporting and recording antisemitism in the literary world, we can help to put support systems in place for those affected."
28. Authors Guild statement condemning "censoring, threatening, or blacklisting authors" (https://authorsguild.org/news/the-authors-guild-condemns-censoring-threatening-or-blacklisting-authors/). Issued June 24, 2024. An excerpt from the statement's text: "The Authors Guild takes strategic legal actions when authors are censored based on their views, religious or national affiliation, race, gender, or sexual identity, and we step in to provide legal assistance to members when their rights are being violated or ignored. Our legal actions serve to protect all authors regardless of changes in the political or social climate over time. The Guild encourages members and other authors who are experiencing censorship to reach out to us for support and to keep us abreast of what you are experiencing so that we may take action."
29. Jewish Book Council's BookWatch series (https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/with-tag/3482). The first BookWatch installment appeared online in August 2024, with this introduction: "What's the scoop on publishing? What Jewish books are agents, editors, and publishers looking to acquire — and which books are they especially excited for us to read? At JBC, we've launched a new series, BookWatch, to answer these frequently asked questions. Each month, a publishing insider will write an email to introduce themselves, give us a behind-the-scenes look at their work, and tell us about forthcoming Jewish books they can't wait to usher into the world."
30. Jewish Book Council's Nu Reads (https://www.nureads.org): "a bimonthly subscription service that brings remarkable Jewish literature straight to your door."
31. Mindich Fellowship for Jewish Fiction (https://miamibookfair.com/program/emerging-fellows/): Applications for this fellowship, within the Miami Book Fair's Emerging Writer Fellowships program, were accepted for the first time in spring 2026.
32. State of the Arts (https://state-of-the-arts.org/). An ADL initiative "documenting the representation of Jewish and Israeli artists and stories across American culture. It brings

together three core reports: Behind the Frame, a scorecard of 40 major art museums; Dark Stage, an interactive timeline of incidents across the performing arts and entertainment; and Missing Chapter, an analysis of trends in the literary world. The initiative also provides new research on public attitudes and the rise of extremist groups in the cultural space."

33. Arts in Community Initiative (https://form.jotform.com/262793788747178). This collaboration between Natan and UJA-Federation of New York launched a new funding cycle just last month. "This fund is one strategy among many to address a critical gap: Jewish writers, artists, and cultural creators face new barriers to visibility, support, and distribution in a cultural climate increasingly hostile to Jewish storytelling. In a mainstream landscape crowded with competing narratives, Jewish artistic voices are too often sidelined, excluded from platforms where they belong, or forced to conceal their identities." It "supports local artists and creatives in sharing the joy, depth, and rich culture of Jewish and Israeli heritage throughout neighborhood community spaces. This is an invitation to artists, museums, conveners, culture makers, and more to connect, create, and share Jewish art and stories where they often aren't included. We invest in programs that get artists in front of audiences, build cultural markets for their work, and create communities of peer support. Funding can be used to develop new and/or embed existing Jewish and Israeli content within local cultural events and opportunities like neighborhood festivals, art fairs, bookstores, local galleries, museum exhibits, murals, and public programs." For this cycle, three funding lanes are available: "one-time programming in mainstream venues"; "cultural markets and professional visibility in Jewish community spaces"; and "resilience and community programming for Jewish and Israeli artists." NB: Applicants "must be based in or serve the five boroughs of New York City, Westchester County, or Long Island."
34. Still Life in Israel with Jessica Steinberg (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF46NhuEWZy0). A (very!) new weekly podcast in which *The Times of Israel*'s arts and culture editor "explores what life in Israel looks and feels like right now, through conversations with the artists, writers, musicians, and other voices helping us make sense of this moment."

New Publishers/Imprints

35. The "Big Three" of this group to date, all of whom will be represented within another conference panel today, are Canary Publishing (https://www.canarypublishing.org/); Meg Keene Books (https://books.megkeene.com/); and Odessa Editions (https://www.highlinepublishing.com/odessa).
36. Vayinafash Press (https://vayinafashpress.com/). "Vayinafash Press is a publishing imprint and marketing cooperative for independent Jewish authors. We exist to strengthen Jewish conversations by helping important ideas find thoughtful readers."