**EVENT OUTLINE**

People of the Book: the Sami Rohr Prize Finalists Talk About Jewish Literature

Participants: Margot Singer (moderator), Rachel Kadish, Michael David Lukas, Mark Sarvas.

The moderator will kick off the panel by introducing the Sami Rohr Prize and the literary institute, as well as 2019 finalists/winners and their work. We will discuss the following questions as a group, with one of us taking the lead on each issue, and taking questions from the audience along the way, as time permits:

1. Can you identify a way in which your work is, and isn’t, “Jewish writing”?

2. If the immigrant experience and the Holocaust defined earlier eras of Jewish fiction (at least in America), what issues and experiences are foremost in Jewish fiction today?

3. What role does Jewish literature play in confronting anti-Semitism today?

4. What lies ahead for Jewish literature? Who might the next Roth and Bellow be? How does Israel—and changing attitudes toward Israel—fit in? Where would you like to see Jewish writers go in their future work?