



**The Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington Book Festival has been Named *The Lessans Family Annual Book Festival***

**For Immediate Release: May 28, 2013**

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**ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND** – The Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington (JCCGW) is pleased to announce that the JCCGW Annual Book Festival will now be known as *The Lessans Family Annual Book Festival*. Dr. Stuart Lessans has named the book festival in memory of his parents, Sara and Samuel J. Lessans, and in honor of his children, Matthew and Faye.

“I wanted to honor the memory of my wonderful parents, whose commitment to family and community was limitless, by making a gift to an organization that they would wholeheartedly approve of,” Dr. Lessans explains. He also wanted to honor his children, 6<sup>th</sup>-grade twins who are active participants in many JCCGW programs and activities, by supporting an organization with which they readily identify.

JCCGW CEO Michael Feinstein states, “We are profoundly grateful to Dr. Lessans for his generosity and commitment. His gift combines a wonderful and appropriate tribute to his family with an enduring benefit to the community by assuring that the book festival continues to bring important contemporary authors and the latest literary works to our community.”

Now in its 44<sup>th</sup> year, the festival is one of the largest Jewish Community Center book festivals in the United States. Featuring more than 25 author events and a book store with approximately 5,000 books, the event draws thousands of visitors from the community each year. This year’s festival will be held November 8-17, 2013.

In recent years, the Festival has featured authors including Mitch Albom, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Moshe Arens, Thomas L. Friedman, Alice Hoffman, Senator Joe Lieberman, Leonard Nimoy, Amos Oz, Jack Klugman and Stuart Eizenstat.

The JCCGW creates a welcoming and inclusive environment, connecting the people of the Jewish community with each other, Israel, and the broader community. We inspire individuals of all ages and backgrounds to enhance their social, physical, intellectual and spiritual well-being through programs of excellence rooted in Jewish values. [www.jccgw.org](http://www.jccgw.org).