

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Holly Lange

(601) 362-6357

lange@isj.org

Noted Author to Tour Arkansas

Eli Evans featured in the Southern States Literary Series

Since the publication of his now classic book *The Provincials*, Eli Evans has been known as the “poet laureate” of the Jewish South. First published in 1973 and updated in 2005, *The Provincials* was the first book to take readers on a journey into the soul of the Jewish South, using autobiography, storytelling, and interpretive history to create a complete portrait of Jewish contributions to the history of the region. Evans has gone on to write *Judah P. Benjamin: The Jewish Confederate* and *The Lonely Days Were Sundays: Reflections of a Jewish Southerner* and remains the most insightful observer of Jewish life in the South.

The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life is pleased to announce that Eli Evans will be a part of the 2005 Southern States Literary Series with three presentations in Arkansas. Evans will discuss the tradition of interfaith cooperation between Jews and Gentiles in the South at the First Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs on Monday, November 7th. He will discuss his classic work, “The Provincials: A Personal History of Jews in the South,” November 8th at the Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock and at the Northeast Arkansas Community College in Bentonville on November 9th. All programs start at 7:00 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

The ISJL’S Southern States Literary Series features discussions and book signings with leading authors of newly released works on the Jewish experience. Each author in the series travels to several cities, creating a vibrant literary circuit throughout the Institute’s twelve-state region. Eli Evan’s lecture is part of a series of programs celebrating the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in America.

This program is supported in part by the Arkansas Humanities Council with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Jewish Federation of Arkansas. Co-sponsors include the Rosenzweig Fund for Interfaith Activity, Historic Arkansas Museum, and Congregation Etz Chaim of Bentonville. This presentation is part of the American Jewish Icons national lecture series sponsored by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture with major support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life has its roots in the work of the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience. The organization is dedicated to providing educational and rabbinic services to small Jewish communities, documenting and preserving the rich history of the Southern Jewish Experience, and promoting a strong Jewish cultural presence throughout a twelve-state region.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the presentation. For further information contact the Institute of Southern Jewish Life at (601) 362-6357.