

# Jewish Book Month Author Luncheon

MARK KIRCHHOFF

Community Engagement and Education

**T**he Community Engagement and Education arm of the Jewish Federation of Omaha is proud to present the 44th Annual Jewish Book Month Author Luncheon featuring author Annabelle Gurwitch. The luncheon will be held at **noon** on **Thursday, Nov. 9** in the JCC auditorium, which will include a presentation by the author followed by a book signing.

There's an old adage: You can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family. Annabelle Gurwitch is a *New York Times* bestselling author who would like to see that axiom retired. She asks this question in her latest collection of essays, *Wherever You Go, There They Are - Stories About My Family You Might Relate To*: "Who is our family? Our blood relations, the people we work with, pray with, our pets?" Using her own family as a launch point, she writes about her clan of bootleggers, gamblers, and philanderers, as well as the sisterhoods, temporary tribes, communities and cults who have become surrogates along the way.

For those looking to start reading before the luncheon, copies of Gurwitch's two most recent books are available for check-out from the Kripke Jewish Federation Library. If you would like to obtain a personal hardbound copy of *Wherever You Go, There They Are*, and have it signed by the author as a keepsake, books may be purchased for \$15 during regular

Kripke Library hours, as well as at the **Nov. 9** program.

Annabelle Gurwitch is also an actress and the author of *I See You Made an Effort* (a *New York Times* bestseller and Thurber Prize finalist); *You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up* (coauthored with Jeff Kahn), and *Fired!* also a Showtime Comedy Special. Gurwitch gained a loyal following during her stint cohosting *Dinner & a Movie* on TBS and years as a regular commentator on NPR. She's written for the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The*

*Hollywood Reporter*. Her acting credits include *Seinfeld*, *Boston Legal*, *Dexter*, and *Melvin Goes to Dinner*. A veteran of many lauded and even more misguided theatrical productions, she regularly performs at arts centers around the country. Annabelle is a Jewish mother, a reluctant atheist, and an ardent environmentalist. She is empty-nesting in Los Angeles.

Advanced reservations are required by **Oct. 31**. Please contact Mark Kirchhoff at 402.334.6463 or [mkirchhoff@jewishomaha.org](mailto:mkirchhoff@jewishomaha.org). Price for the kosher buffet meal is \$12 and may be paid with cash or check at the door or in advance. If you are making this an opportunity for a group outing, please let us know and we will reserve a table for you.



Annabelle Gurwitch

## Miriam Initiative Committee



**Joanie Jacobson, left, Margie Gutnik, Laurie Epstein, Melissa Shapiro, Patty Nogg and Pam Friedlander. Not pictured are: Linda Fischer, Shiri Phillips and Caryn Scheer.** The Miriam Initiative, a new concept in women's programming at Beth El Synagogue, will kick off Nov. 2 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the BLUEBARN Theatre. For more information and to RSVP, call Sibby Wolfson at 402.305.8445 or email [sibby.wolfson@gmail.com](mailto:sibby.wolfson@gmail.com) by Oct. 30.