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Ruth Ellen Gruber has written on Jewish heritage and culture for more than three decades. With her 2002 book, *Virtually Jewish: Reinventing Jewish Culture in Europe*, she coined the term “Virtually Jewish” to describe the way the so-called “Jewish space” in Europe is often filled by non-Jews. Among her other books are *National Geographic Jewish Heritage Travel: A Guide to Eastern Europe*, first

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published in 1992; *Letters from Europe (and Elsewhere)* (2008), and *Upon the Doorposts of Thy House: Jewish Life in East-Central Europe, Yesterday and Today* (1994). A former foreign correspondent for UPI in communist Poland, then-Yugoslavia, and elsewhere in east-central Europe, she now coordinates the Jewish Heritage Europe website www.jewish-heritage-europe.eu, a project of the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe. Her awards and honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship and Poland's Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit. She was the Arnold Distinguished Visiting Chair in Jewish Studies at the College of Charleston (USA) in 2015 and has a longterm project exploring the European fascination with the American Wild West, its mythology, and its music.

Wolfgang Mieder is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of German and Folklore in the Department of German and Russian at the University of Vermont at Burlington, Vermont (USA). In 2012, he received the Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award from the American Folklore Society and the European Fairy Tale Prize. His publications in German and English deal with the use and function of proverbs, proverbial expressions, wellerisms, and anti-proverbs in literature, the mass media, art, politics, and advertising. He is the founding editor of *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* (1984ff.). Among his recent books in English are *The Dictionary of Modern Proverbs* (2012, with Charles Doyle and Fred Shapiro), *"Behold the Proverbs of a People": Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics* (2014), *"Right Makes Might": Proverbs and the American Worldview* (2019), *The Worldview of Modern American Proverbs* (2020), *Dictionary of Authentic American Proverbs* (2021), and *A Rising Tide Lifts All the Boats: The Proverbial Rhetoric of John F. Kennedy* (2023).

Elly Moseson is a lecturer of religion at Columbia University (USA). He holds a B.A. in English Literature from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Boston University. He has served as a Visiting Professor at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, taught at Queens College and Hebrew Union College, and held postdoctoral positions at Columbia University, Haifa University, Tel Aviv University, and the University of Hamburg (Germany). His research interests

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Tsafi Sebba-Elran is a senior lecturer of modern Hebrew literature and folklore in the Department of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of Haifa (Israel). She received her Ph.D. in folklore studies from Tel Aviv University. In the past six years, she has been the head of the M.A. program in Jewish-Israeli Culture, and she was also a visiting professor at Indiana University (USA). Her studies concern the formation of cultural memory in Israel, and the contribution of humorous and other popular genres to the construction of modern Jewish identities. She is the author of *In Search of New Memories: The Aggadic Anthologies and their Role in the Configuration of the Modern Hebrew Canon* (2017) and the editor of two other volumes on contemporary trends in the study of Jewish folklore.

Eli Yassif is professor emeritus of Hebrew Literature and Jewish Folklore in the School of Jewish Studies and held the Zvi Berger Chair of Jewish Folk-Culture at Tel-Aviv University. His major fields of study are the history of Jewish folkloristics and the Hebrew story of the Middle Ages. He is among the founders of the Department of Hebrew Literature at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and served as chair and vice dean of Humanities between 1970–1994. After moving to Tel-Aviv University, he served twice as chair of the Department of Hebrew Literature, and founded and directed the Ofakim Program, the honorary program of Jewish Studies for outstanding students. He has also been a visiting professor at the University of Oxford, Sorbonne University, UCLA, University of California at Berkeley, University of Michigan, Yale University, University of Chicago, and

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