

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ami Bennett, Ashmont Media, 617.797.8267, ami@ashmontmedia.com

**New Center for Arts & Culture Announces
Safe at Home: Baseball as Pastime and Passport
A Conversation Among Baseball Writers Featuring
Bill Ryan, Michael Silverman, and Ilan Stavans
Interviewed by WBUR's Bill Littlefield, Host of "Only A Game"
Thursday, September 18, 7:30pm
Temple Ohabei Shalom, Brookline**

[Newton, MA—September 3, 2014] The New Center for Arts & Culture, in partnership with Temple Ohabei Shalom present **SAFE AT HOME: BASEBALL PASTIME AND PASSPORT**, a conversation among baseball writers. Featuring Bill Ryan, Michael Silverman, and Ilan Stavans, the conversation hosted by WBUR's Bill Littlefield, host of "Only A Game" will take place Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 7:30pm, at Temple Ohabei Shalom, 1187 Beacon Street, in Brookline, MA. Tickets are \$28 and \$25 and may be purchased by calling 617.531.4610 or at newcenterboston.org. The ticket price includes a guided tour of the traveling exhibition *Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American*. Doors will open at 6:30PM for tours.



Bill Ryan



Michael Silverman



Ilan Stavans



Bill Littlefield

In conjunction with the traveling exhibition *Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American*, The New Center presents a conversation among some of Boston's leading baseball writers about the role of the game in the acculturation of American Jews – as players, fans, executives, and writers – and the related experiences of other immigrant and minority groups.

[Bill Ryan](#) is a retired columnist for The Boston Globe and regular commentator on ESPN.

[Michael Silverman](#) covers baseball for the Boston Herald and is currently writing a book with Pedro Martinez.

[Ilan Stavans](#) is an acclaimed writer and scholar of both Jewish and Latino cultures, has written and edited dozens of books, including *Beisbol*.

[About Bill Littlefield](#)

Bill wrote his first commentary for WBUR in 1984, and shortly thereafter his work began airing on NPR's "Morning Edition," where, for a few years, he hit second in a line-up that included Red Barber and Frank Deford. A graduate of Yale University and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Bill continues to teach one course each semester at Curry College, where he also serves as writer-in-residence. Bill's most recent book is "Only A Game." He refuses to say where he got the title. Anyway, it's a collection of radio commentaries and magazine articles published by University of Nebraska Press in 2007. His other books include "Fall Classics" (Crown Press, 2003), a collection of the best writing about the World Series which he edited with Richard Johnson; "The Circus in the Woods" (Houghton Mifflin, 2002); "Prospect" (Houghton Mifflin, 1989; paperback, 2000); "Baseball Days" (Houghton Mifflin, 1993; paperback Pond Press, 2000); "Champions: The Stories of Ten Remarkable Athletes" (Little, Brown, 1993; paperback, 1999); and "Keepers: Radio Stories from 'Only A Game' and Elsewhere" (Peninsula Press, 1999). He was the guest editor for Houghton Mifflin's Best American Sports Writing in 1998.

[About The New Art Center for Arts & Culture](#)

The New Center for Arts and Culture celebrates the rich diversity of the Jewish imagination. The only Boston organization of its kind, the New Center explores universal themes through a Jewish lens, presenting world-class thinkers and artists through riveting conversations and performances. Aiming to strengthen the Jewish community and share the vitality of Jewish culture with a broad audience in Boston and beyond, the New Center delves into Jewish thought and culture through three strands of programming: New Center Live, New Center On Stage, and New Center Now. For more information about The New Arts Center for Arts & Culture, visit newcenterboston.org.

[About Temple Ohabei Shalom](#)

Temple Ohabei Shalom ("Lovers of Peace") has been at the center of New England Judaism since its founding as the first synagogue in Massachusetts in 1842. One of America's grand synagogues, it's affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism. A truly diverse mosaic, its members are comprised of Jews by birth and by choice including interfaith families, and many ethnicities and nationalities, without regard to sexual preference. Worship is as one on Beacon Street sharing spiritual Shabbat services infused with rich music, comforting daily worship and a myriad of adult learning opportunities to challenge minds. Special guest speakers sprinkle Friday night services. From meditation gatherings to social action Mitzvah Days, it's a community committed to learning and growing both spiritually and in deed. For more information about Temple Ohabei Shalom, visit ohabei.org.

For more information, interviews, and high resolution images, contact Ami Bennett, Ashmont Media at ami@ashmontmedia.com.

###