

ayelet waldman



A little more than a year ago I was at a party in New York -- an Obama fundraiser, of course -- when I was introduced to Judy Blume. I immediately started gushing, "Oh my God! I can't believe I'm shaking hands with you! *Are You There God, It's Me Margaret* changed my life!" She received my hysterical sycophancy with great good humor. We chatted for a few minutes, and then another nearly middle-aged woman rushed up. "Oh my God!" she gushed. "I can't believe it's you! *Are You There God, It's Me Margaret* changed my life!" And then another and another and another. And so on and so forth for the entire evening And presumably every evening, morning, and afternoon of Ms. Blume's life. It's a wonder she ever leaves her house.

But leave it she does, and now YOU will get a chance to gush, just like I did. Please join Judy Blume for an evening of music and comedy as The National Coalition Against Censorship Celebrates 35 Years of Defending Free Speech with an October 19 Gala.

The NCAC is honoring renowned and much-censored (Forever!) author Judy Blume with music, comedy and stories about censorship and the perils of growing up. Performers include Richard Belzer, Junot Diaz, Mary Louise Parker, Lili Taylor, and more, plus video appearances by Meg Cabot, Whoopi Goldberg, Chelsea Handler, Joan Rivers and Dar Williams. Dan Glickman, CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America, is chairing the event.

WHO: National Coalition Against Censorship, Judy Blume, and guests
For a complete list, see [here](#).
WHAT: A Night of Comedy with Judy Blume & Friends
WHEN: Monday, October 19
6:00 p.m. cocktail reception/7:00 p.m. dinner and show
WHERE: City Winery, 155 Varick Street (corner of Vandam), lower Manhattan.
Subways: 1 to Houston Street; C, E to Spring Street

Tickets available [here](#).

Since 1974, NCAC has fought attempts to regulate free speech, from the censorship battles arising from the Supreme Court's landmark obscenity ruling in 1973, to the Meese Report in 1986. to the censorship of films like Martin Scorsese's *The Last*

Meese Report in 1986, to the censorship of films like Martin Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ*, to ongoing controversies over public funding and museum exhibitions. The NCAC works to educate their own members and the public at large about the dangers of censorship and how to oppose them and runs several national projects and programs including the Arts Advocacy Project, Kids' Right to Read Project, The Knowledge Project: Censorship and Science, and the Youth Free Expression Network.

National Coalition Against Censorship is a nonprofit organization; all tickets are tax-deductible.

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