



**25th ANNUAL JEWISH AMERICAN &
HOLOCAUST LITERATURE SYMPOSIUM**
AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

November 10-13, 2019 | The Betsy Hotel South Beach, Florida

Welcome to the 25th Annual Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Symposium!

Our Silver Anniversary Symposium celebrates 25 shared years of intellectual inquiry within the scope of Jewish American and Holocaust literatures. Join us as we continue those shared pursuits Sunday night, all day Monday and Tuesday, and Wednesday through lunch at roundtables, panels, readings, films, an exhibit, music and more. The Jahlit sponsored dinner at The Alley (in The Betsy Hotel) is Monday November 11, 5-6:30PM.

All sessions are in the BBar at The Betsy Hotel, located at 1440 Ocean Drive in South Beach.

There are 2 exceptions: SUNDAY Book launch is at Books&Books, 927 Lincoln Rd, Miami Beach and TUESDAY Keynote address with Ruby Namdar is at Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, 301 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach.

Participants are strongly encouraged to attend all facets of the Symposium, including (always delicious) meals, academic sessions and cultural events. We have a record number of presentations and events this year. To ensure that we keep on schedule and that there will be enough time for discussion at the end of each panel, ALL panel papers are limited to fifteen minutes. Names of session chairs and participants' emails can be found in the back pages of the Program. Session chairs should request bios from their panelists prior to the session.

You are welcome to bring family and friends without cost to any of the Special Events listed below, which are also listed on The Betsy website as part of their community programming:

Special Events:

Sunday November 10

@ 7 PM Book Release Party Books&Books, Lincoln Rd. Miami Beach

Monday, November 11

@ 9 - 10AM JAHLit 25th Anniversary Roundtable (continental breakfast)

@ 12:40-1:40PM Dr. Eric J. Sundquist (lunch served)

@ 3:25-4:15PM Dr. David Slucki

@ 7:45PM Film Screening & Conversation

Tuesday, November 12

@ 9 to 10AM Pedagogy Roundtable (continental breakfast)

@ 12:30-1:30PM Poetry Reading: Jacqueline Osterow (lunch served)

@ 7PM (KEYNOTE Address) Rudy Namdar – at The Jewish Museum of Florida

Wednesday, November 13

@ 8:30 to 9:30 Alice Hoffman and Ayelet Gundar Goshen in conversation
(Power Breakfast)

@ 11:45-12:45 Film Screening and Discussion (lunch served)

Thanks to Monica Osborne, and the assistance of Deborah Briggs and BooksandBooks, we continue to hold the JAHLit Book Exhibit, highlighting—and selling at a discount--JAHLit participants' recent book publications. Special thanks also to LMU Jewish Studies staff Margaret Butterfield, who designed the print program and Nina Gibson, who assembled the conference materials.

Additional Notes: If you are enjoying Jahlit for the first—or twenty-fifth—time, we want to encourage you to give back to this great organization. Thanks to members' donations to our Founders' Scholarship Fund (created in honor of JAHLit founders Alan Berger, Gloria Cronin, and Daniel Walden (of blessed memory)), this year we are able to help fund participation in the conference for four advanced graduate students. Please consider donating any amount so that we can continue to help scholars find their home here. With gratitude to the following JAHLit members: Victoria Aarons, Jeffrey Demsky, Sandy Goodhart, Hank Greenspan, Clare Katz, Sandy Marovitz, David Patterson, Eric Sundquist, and anonymous others. Donations may be sent to conference director Holli Levitsky at JAHLit, c/c Loyola Marymount University Jewish Studies Program, One LMU Drive, University Hall 3863, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Finally, we are deeply grateful to Deborah Briggs and for the support of The Betsy Hotel and its philanthropic affiliates, PG Family Foundation, The Betsy Community Fund, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in underwriting many aspects of the conference. We would also like to thank the Philanthropy, Arts, Culture and Education (PACE) team and the leadership of The Betsy-South Beach for their dedicated assistance with JAHLit over the past nine years. We look forward to our continued partnership! Thanks also to Oren Stier, who organized our new partnership with Florida International University and the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU.

For future conference information, visit www.jahlit.com.

Holli Levitsky & Monica Osborne

Sprig of Lilac

Hyam Plutzik

Their heads grown weary under the weight of Time—
These few hours on the hither side of silence—

The lilac sprigs bend on the bough to perish.

Though each for its own sake is beautiful,
In each is the greater, the remembered beauty.
Each is exemplar of its ancestors.

Within the flower of the present, uneasy in the wind,
Are the forms of those of the years behind the door.
Their faint aroma touches the edge of the mind.

And the living and the past give to one another.
There is no door between them. They pass freely
Out of themselves; becoming one another.

I see the lilac sprigs bending and withering.
Each year like Adonis they pass through the dumb-
show of death,
Waxing and waning on the tree in the brain of a man.

Sunday, November 10, 2019

7:00pm	<p><u>Pre-conference event</u> Book Release Party “New Directions in Jewish American and Holocaust Literatures: Reading and Teaching” Wine and cheese reception</p> <p>Location: Books & Books, 927 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach</p>
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Monday, November 11, 2019

All sessions will take place in the Betsy Hotel, B Bar. Breakfast served from 8:00am

MORNING SESSIONS	
9:00am-10:00am	<p><u>Session 1: JAHLIT 25th Anniversary Roundtable</u></p> <p>Roundtable participants Phyllis Lassner Benjamin Schreier Lucas Wilson Alan Berger Monica Osborne</p>
10:10am-11:25am	<p><u>Session 2: Identity & Mourning</u></p> <p>Gila Safran Naveh: “Ozick’s Integrative Humanistic Model” (chair) David Patterson: “The Singularity of the Holocaust Revealed in Cynthia Ozick’s ‘The Shawl’” Myriam Sommer: “Selves Lost in Translation: Haunted Ethics of Mourning in Bernard Malamud’s Short Stories” Alexander Ullman: “Sound and Diaspora in Jewish American Fiction: Hearing Jewish Identity in Paley, Spiegelman, Roth and Safran-Foer”</p>

<p>11:30am- 12:30pm</p>	<p><u>Session 3: Film, Painting, and Graphic Novels: Images of the Holocaust</u></p> <p>Vicki Aarons: “Master Race’ and the Making of the Holocaust Graphic Novel” Bob Abzug: “The Holocaust, and the Birth of Color Field Painting” Phyllis Lassner: “The Dybbuk’ as a Film Fantasy of Holocaust Memory” (chair)</p>
<p>AFTERNOON SESSIONS</p>	
<p>12:40pm- 1:40pm</p>	<p><u>Session 4 & Lunch: Hyam Plutzik Panel</u></p> <p>Eric J. Sundquist: “Blessed Mythmaker: The poetry of Hyam Plutzik” Ed Moran: “The ‘still, small voice’ of Hyam Plutzik’s post-Exodus poetry”</p>
<p>1:50pm- 3:05pm</p>	<p><u>Session 5: Outtakes, Testimonies, and TV: Perceiving the Visual</u></p> <p>Ellen Freidman: “The Uses of Video Testimonies: Authenticity, Cosmopolitanism, and Holocaust Memory” (chair) Rob Franciosi: “The Tip of the Iceberg: Encountering the Shoah Outtakes” Alexis Pogorelskin: “The Disappearing Jew in Hollywood: Lost in The Mortal Storm” Audrey Thacker: “Oh, Brother, Now <i>You’re</i> a Jewish Mother? How <i>Transparent’s</i> Maura Pfefferman Has Turned the Trope on Its Head--or Maybe Not”</p>
<p>3:15pm- 4:15pm</p>	<p><u>Session 6: Sing This at My Funeral</u></p> <p>David Slucki, Reading and Discussion Ellen Friedman, Respondent</p>
<p>5:00pm</p>	<p>DINNER Location: The Alley Restaurant, within the Betsy Hotel <i>Sponsored by JAHLit</i></p>

7:45pm	<p>Film: “The Last Resort” & panel</p> <p>Igor Shterenberg, Director, The Miami Jewish Film Festival</p> <p>Ed Christin, Archivist and Photographic Historian</p> <p>Andrea Greenbaum, Professor of English, Barry University</p> <p>Kareem Tabash, Co-Director, The Last Resort (tentative)</p>
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Tuesday, November 12, 2019

All sessions will take place in the Betsy Hotel, B Bar. Breakfast served from 8:00am

MORNING SESSIONS	
9:00am-10:00m	<p><u>Session 1: Forty Years of Holocaust Pedagogy: Challenges & Opportunities Roundtable</u></p> <p><u>Roundtable Participants</u></p> <p>Oren Stier</p> <p>Aby Baumarate</p> <p>Jennifer Lemberg</p> <p>Gila Safran Naveh</p>
10:10am-11:10am	<p><u>Session 2: Images of the Jewish Woman</u></p> <p>Sharon Oster: “Emma Lazarus’ Cosmopolitanism” (chair)</p> <p>Naama Harel: “The Modern Hebraic Shiksa and the Phantom of Potiphar’s Wife”</p> <p>Nyusya Millman-Miller: “<i>Cherchez la femme juive: Depiction of Jewish Women in Russian Literature.</i>”</p>
11:20am-12:20pm	<p><u>Session 3: Heritage Tourism and Jewish Identity</u></p> <p>Susan Aronstein: (chair)</p> <p>Laurie Finke: “The Cloisters Cross: Medieval Anti-Semitism in the Heart of New York City”</p> <p>Kathleen Kelly: “Nazi Pastoral: The Wewelsburg Castle Complex”</p> <p>Martin Shichtman: “King David’s Tomb: From Medieval Tourist Trap to Religious Contested Space”</p>

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

12:30pm-
1:30pm

Session 4/Lunch: Poetry reading and discussion with Jacqueline Osherow

Jacqueline Osherow: “From Berlin to Bryce Canyon to Human Province: An American-Jewish Poet Roams the World”

2:30pm-
3:30pm

Session 6: Yiddish Memoirs, Epigraphs, and Midrashim

Anthony Wexler: “Primo Levi’s Modern Midrashim” (chair)

Murray Baumgarten: “Telling your Troubles: the Yiddish Epigraph of Primo Levi’s *Periodic Table*”

Christin Zuhlke: “The Yiddish Memoirs of the Sonderkommando in Auschwitz-Birkenau”

3:40pm-
4:55pm

Session 7: Legacy and Disruption in the Literature of the Shoah

Rachel Brenner: “Jan Karski and Shmul Zygelbojm: ‘The Men Who Tried To Stop the Holocaust’” (chair)

Noah Simon Jampol: “‘Thine eyes did see mine unformed substance [?]’: The Golem and the Shoah in the works of Philip Roth, Thane Rosenbaum and Michael Chabon”

Heather Lutz: “Not to Have and Yet to Hold: Heirlooms in the Hands of Holocaust Descendants”

Sara Pini: “Once Upon a Time in Auschwitz: Innovating and Disrupting the Canon with Contemporary Holocaust Literature or Young Readers”

5:05pm-
6:05pm

Session 8: Seeking Meaning and Transcendence

Sandor Goodhart: “Reading ‘Evil and Transcendence’: Levinas and the Book of Job” (chair)

Michael Shapiro: “‘The Merchant of Venice’ after the Shoah: Decentering Shylock”

Ravenal Richardson: “We Seek the Meaning of Life: Reading in the Face of Destruction”

	Dinner on your own
7:30pm-9:00pm	<p>Collective Trauma, Collective Memory, Collective Unconscious: A Conversation with Israeli-American Author Ruby Namdar</p> <p>Monica Osborne Respondent Location: The Jewish Museum of Florida</p>

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

All sessions will take place in the Betsy Hotel, B Bar.

MORNING SESSIONS	
8:30am-9:30am	<u>Power Breakfast with Alice Hoffman and Ayelet Gundar-Goshen</u>
9:35am-10:35am	<p><u>Session 9: The Holocaust Across Borders</u></p> <p>Hilene Flanzbaum: “Discovering Collaboration in Contemporary French Fiction” (chair) Ira Nadel: “The Holocaust in Contemporary Australian Fiction” Holli Levitsky: “Every Family Saved a Jew: Facing History and Memory in the Polish Classroom”</p>
10:40am-11:15am	<p><u>Session 10: But is it Really Jewish Literature?</u></p> <p>Benjamin Schreier: “Dubiously Jewish Literature” (chair) David Greven: “Secular Judaism and American Scripture: Bloom’s Shaping of the Canon”</p>
11:30am-12:30pm	<p><u>Session 11: A Night at the Garden</u></p> <p>Charles Small: “Decoding Global Antisemitism: Contemporary Tools” Margarete Feinstein, Respondent</p>
	Conclusion

Autumn Psalm (excerpt)

By Jacqueline Osherow

A full year passed (the seasons keep me honest)
since I last noticed this same commotion.
Who knew God was an abstract expressionist?

I'm asking myself—the very question
I asked last year, staring out at this array
of racing colors, then set in motion

by the chance invasion of a Steller's jay.
Is this what people mean by speed of light?
My usually levelheaded mulberry tree

hurling arrows everywhere in sight—
its bow: the out-of-control Virginia creeper
my friends say I should do something about,

whose vermilion went at least a full shade deeper
at the provocation of the upstart blue,
the leaves (half green, half gold) suddenly hyper

in savage competition with that red and blue—
tohubohu returned, in living color.
Kandinsky: where were you when I needed you?



THE LAST RESORT

Directed by **Dennis Scholl & Kareem Tabsch**

Long before Art Deco was a movement and prior to the arrival of the youth culture of MTV and Miami Vice, South Beach was home to the largest cluster of Jewish retirees in the country.

In *The Last Resort*, viewers embark on a journey to the iconic Miami Beach of yesterday thru the lens of young photographers Andy Sweet and Gary Monroe. With camera in hand, they embarked upon an ambitious 10-year project to document the aging population living in the sunburned paradise of 1970's Miami Beach and into the changing, turbulent 1980's. Working in different styles and approaches they captured the end of an era through engrossing black and white images by Monroe juxtaposed with Sweet's captivating candy-hued color photos. The result is one of the most fascinating photographic documentations of a community ever caught on film.

Featuring interviews with Pulitzer prize winner Edna Buchanan, filmmaker Kelly Reichardt, Jewish Museum of Florida Executive Director Susan Gladstone and photographer Gary Monroe, *The Last Resort* is a celebration of some of Miami's greatest visual artists and a stunning testament to a community all but forgotten...until now.



Ruby Namdar was born and raised in Jerusalem to a family of Iranian-Jewish heritage. His first book, *Haviv* (2000), won The Ministry of Culture's Award for Best First Publication. His novel *The Ruined House* has won the Sapir Prize, Israel's most prestigious literary award. He currently lives in New York City with his wife and two daughters and teaches Jewish literature, focusing on Biblical and Talmudic narrative.

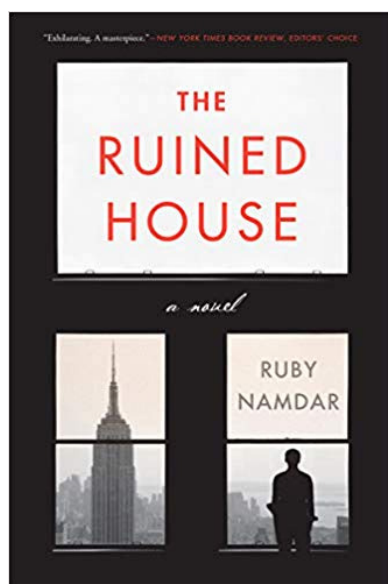
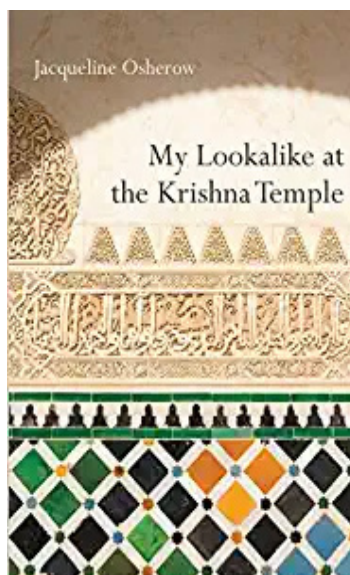
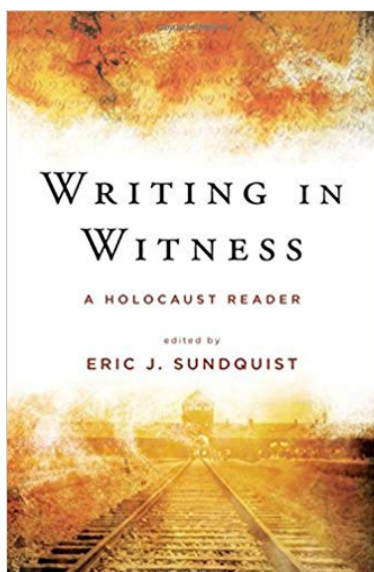


Eric J. Sundquist, the 2019 Hyam Plutzik scholar, teaches courses in American literature and culture, with special interests in African American literature, Jewish American literature, and the literature of the Holocaust.

Professor Sundquist's books include *King's Dream* (2009); *Strangers in the Land: Blacks, Jews, Post-Holocaust America* (2005), which received the Weinberg Judaic Studies Institute Book Award; *To Wake the Nations: Race in the Making of American Literature* (1992), which received the Christian Gauss Award from Phi Beta Kappa and the James Russell Lowell Award from the Modern



Raised in Philadelphia, poet **Jacqueline Osherow** received her BA from Radcliffe College, Harvard University, and her PhD from Princeton University. She is the author of several collections of poetry, including *Hoopoe's Crown* (2005). Her debut collection, *Looking for Angels in New York* (1988), was chosen for the Contemporary Poetry Series. She has been awarded the Witter Bynner Prize by the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, several prizes from the Poetry Society of America, and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Ingram Merrill Foundation.



Recent Works by our keynote speakers



A Night at the Garden

In 1939, 20,000 Americans rallied in New York's Madison Square Garden to celebrate the rise of Nazism – an event largely forgotten from American history. **A NIGHT AT THE GARDEN**, made entirely from archival footage filmed that night, transports audiences to this chilling gathering and shines a light on the power of demagoguery and anti-Semitism in the United States.

A NIGHT AT THE GARDEN was directed and edited by Marshall Curry and was supported and released by Field of Vision. The film was nominated for a 2019 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short; it was also an official selection at the Sundance Film Festival and was part of a special screening and panel discussion at the New York Film Festival. It was released on 22 Alamo Theater screens across the country and at The IFC Center in NYC.

**Thank you to all our Symposium presenters!
(final list of presenters will be below)**



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Co Director: Holli Levitsky
Contact: Holli.Levitsky@lmu.edu

Co-Director: Monica Osborne
Contact: Monicaosborne@gmail.com

www.jahlit.com