

**23rd ANNUAL JEWISH AMERICAN &
HOLOCAUST LITERATURE SYMPOSIUM**

AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

November 12-14, 2017

The Betsy Hotel -- South Beach, Florida

Welcome from the JAHLIT Director:

This year marks the 23rd annual Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Symposium. As always, the Symposium welcomes international scholars regardless of religious affiliation, denomination, area of scholarly expertise, or nationality. For future conference information, check out our website at www.jahlit.com.

Most of the events this year focus on issues specific to Jews in the diaspora. Sunday night we open the conference with a new Yiddish language American film drama, *Menashe*, followed by a panel discussion. Monday morning we host a reading and discussion by the notable Guatemalan Jewish author Eduardo Halfon. Monday's luncheon session features a panel of artists dedicated to the practice of creation in exile. The Monday evening program, with psychologist, oral historian and playwright Hank Greenspan, turns to the provocative intersection of theatre and testimony of the dispossessed, presented as a powerful one-man play. At Tuesday's lunchtime event, we continue to examine traumatic testimony in the diaspora with a keynote talk by Hillel A. Feinberg Chair in Holocaust Studies at the University of Texas, Dallas, Professor David Patterson. Finally, we conclude the 2017 conference on Tuesday evening with a reading by the American Jewish poet Erika Meitner. Her presentation will evoke the colorful contact between Yiddishkeit and that most American of institutions: Walmart.

That said, our main focus is on the research of the front line scholars in the field of Jewish America and Holocaust literatures. This year, we are showcasing papers and panels which offer fresh looks at canonical authors and texts, reveal new thinking about 2nd and 3rd generation writing, and examine theoretical and thematic models for better understanding the literary imagination and the effects of such artistry.

JAHLIT is a small symposium, which packs seven academic panels and six powerful cultural programs into a tight 2 1/2 days. Papers may be informally presented or read. To ensure that we keep on schedule and that there will be enough time for discussion at the end of each panel, we ask that you limit your presentation to fifteen minutes. Please note that unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place in The B-Bar (located at 1440 Ocean Drive in The Betsy Hotel).

We have worked closely with The Betsy Hotel and other partners to create an intellectual paradise for you. As such, participants are strongly encouraged to attend all facets of the Symposium, including our evening and lunch sessions (catered lunch included). Each day is organized so that there are substantial afternoon and dinner breaks.

This year, thanks to the tireless work of Monica Osborne, we present the JAHLit Book Exhibit, highlighting JAHLit participants' recent book publications. We encourage you to visit the Book Exhibit at your leisure during the breaks, talk to the authors, and order books. The Exhibit will be up in The Betsy Hotel Library for the duration of the conference.

At the conclusion of the conference, authors will be invited to sign the sample copies and donate them to the Betsy Hotel library.

Thanks to the generosity of Jahlit members, we have established several scholarship awards for presenters. The Founders' Scholarship, which includes 200.00 and waives the conference registration fee for up to 3 advanced graduate students, was created in honor of Jahlit founders Alan Berger, GLoria Cronin, and Daniel Walden (of blessed memory). The Bernard Malamud Scholar Award is given to a scholar presenting a notable paper on the work of Bernard Malamud, and is additionally sponsored by Trinity University and The Bernard Malamud Society. . This year we are awarding the first, annual Evelyn Love Goodhart award for an advanced graduate student or junior scholar whose work on Jewish history, literature, or culture is exemplary. This year, Founders' Scholarships were awarded to Lucas Wilson and Sol Neely; Sol Neely was also given the Evelyn Love Goodhart scholarship. No Bernard Malamud award was given this year as no paper on Malamud was proposed for the 2017 conference. We encourage all Jahlit members to make donations toward the Founders' Scholarship fund or to create a scholarship in the name of a loved one or beloved author. Your donation will help subsidize the conference costs for a graduate student or junior scholar, thereby ensuring the continuity of the Society for the Study of Jewish American and Holocaust Literature. All donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted and acknowledged. We would like to thank the following JAHLit members for their generosity: Victoria Aarons, Jeffrey Demsky, Sandy Marovitz, Eric Sundquist, Sandy Goodhart, 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.

This program owes a debt of gratitude to Deborah Briggs and the staff at the Betsy Hotel, Margaret Butterfield, and Loyola Marymount University.

All JAHLit participants are invited to attend The Betsy's Annual Yiddish Symposium on November 12th, free of charge, in special arrangement with the Plutzik Goldwasser Family Foundation.

I'll Remember You As You Were, Not As What You'll Become

Erika Meitner

If you are fearful, America,
I can tell you I am too. I worry
about my body—the way, lately,
it marches itself over curbs and
barriers, lingers in the streets
as a form of resistance.

The streets belong to no one
and everyone and are a guide
for motion, but we are so numerous
there is no pavement left on which to
release our bodies, like a river spilling
over a dam, so instead my body
thrums next to yours in place.

When we stop traffic or hold
hands to form a human chain,
we become a neon OPEN sign
singing into the night miles from
home when the only home left
is memory, your body, my body,
our scars, the dark punctuated
with the dying light of stars.

Sunday, November 12, 2017

7:30pm	<p>7:30 PM: Opening Remarks Holli Levitsky, Director of JAHLIT</p> <p>Film: <u>Yiddish is Coming, Yiddish is Coming: A Screening of Menashe</u></p> <p>Introduction and Audience Talk Back will be hosted by Dr. Asher Milbauer and Dr. Holli Levitsky</p> <p><i>Location: The Gallery: enter through The Betsy's Art Deco Wing @ 1433 Collins Avenue</i></p>
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Monday, November 13, 2017

All Sessions will be held in The Betsy Hotel, B Bar

Morning Sessions

9:30am-10:45am	<p><u>Session 1:</u> Eduardo Halfon: "Literature and Auschwitz: A Family Story" <i>Chair: Victoria Aarons</i></p>
10:45am-12:00pm	<p><u>Session 2:</u> "Second and Third Generation Writing"</p> <p>Jessica Lang: "Continental Drift: The Making of Global Holocaust Memory." Gila Safran-Naveh: "Remembrance and Representation of the Shoah: Articulating Desire and Summoning Memory in Thane Rosenbaum's <i>Elijah Visible</i> and <i>Second Hand Smoke</i>" Lucas Wilson: "Tracing Traumatic Threads: Ad(dressing) an Inherited Past in Bernice Eisenstein's <i>'I Was the Child of Holocaust Survivors'</i>" <i>Chair: Gila Safran Naveh</i></p>

Monday Continued

12:15pm-1:15pm	Lunch (located in the Lobby Salon) Session 3: “A Conversation on the Literature of Exile and the Diaspora” Pablo Cartaya, Geoffrey Philp, and Jason Calloway
1:15pm-2:45pm	Afternoon break

Afternoon Sessions

2:45pm-4:00pm	Session 4: "Between Two Worlds" Ira Nadal: "Beckett's Holocaust" Phyllis Lassner: "Between Two Worlds: Vicki Baum's <i>Grand Hotel</i> " Anthony Wexler: “ <i>Disgrace</i> : J.M. Coetzee’s Jewish Novel” <i>Chair: Phyllis Lassner</i>
4:00pm-5:45pm	Session 5: "Jewish Histories" Martin Shichtman: “Nazi Medievalism: Wewelsburg” Ed Moran: “Hyam of Norwich: Jewish Themes in Hyam Plutzik's <i>Horatio</i> ” Nyusya Milman-Miller: “Jewish Food as Cultural Rebellion” <i>Chair: Martin Shichtman</i>
5:45pm-7:30pm	Dinner Break
7:30pm-8:30pm	Performance: "Remnants" by Hank Greenspan

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

All Sessions will be held in The Betsy Hotel, B Bar

Morning Sessions

9:30am-10:45am	Session 6: “Uses of Midrash in Contemporary Thought” Sandor Goodhart: “The ‘Story Without an Ending:’ Art, Midrash, and History in Dara Horn’s <i>The World to Come</i> ” Sol Neely: “A Language That Hates Us: Midrashic Interventions in Micrologies of Power:” Monica Osborne: “Representation's Betrayal: Reading Anne Michaels' <i>The Winter Vault</i> through a Midrashic Lens” <i>Chair: Sandor Goodhart</i>
10:45am-12:00pm	Session 7: "Imagining the Holocaust" Victoria Aarons: “Imagining the Holocaust through Graphic Novels” Henry Gonshak: “Magic Realism and the Holocaust: David Grossman's <i>See Under: Love</i> ” Oren Stier: “When Day Breaks: Surviving Survival” <i>Chair: Victoria Aarons</i>
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch (located in the lobby Salon) Keynote: David Patterson: A Jewish Writer’s Reflection on Writing: Elie Wiesel

Tuesday Continued

1:30pm- 2:30pm	<p>Session 9: "Postwar Survival"</p> <p>Sharon Oster: "Necropolitical Holocaust Metaphors: The Muselmann in Liberation Photography and Postwar Visual Culture"</p> <p>Margarete Feinstein: "We couldn't hit a woman: Revenge and Gender in Postwar Germany"</p> <p><i>Chair: Sharon Oster</i></p>
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Afternoon & Evening Sessions

2:30pm- 3:45pm	<p>Session 10: "Reading Saul Bellow"</p> <p>Timothy Parrish: "Bellow and His Literary Contemporaries"</p> <p>Hilene Flanzbaum: "World Without Mercy: Tommy Wilhelm in <i>Seize the Day</i>"</p> <p>Alan Berger: "On Being a Jewish Writer: Bellow's Post-War America and the American Jewish Diaspora"</p> <p><i>Chair: Victoria Aarons</i></p>
3:45pm- 7:00pm	Afternoon/Dinner break
7:00pm	<p>Performance: "Yiddishkeit meets Walmart", a poetry reading by Erika Meitner (location: Bbar or ocean front deck)</p>

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Film: Yiddish is Coming, Yiddish is Coming: A Screening of Menashe



Introduction and Audience Talk Back will be hosted by **Dr. Asher Milbauer** and **Dr. Holli Levitsky**

"A powerful work of human drama" ... in Yiddish
(*The Atlantic*, 2017)

Deep in the heart of New York's notoriously secretive Hasidic Jewish community, Menashe, a good-hearted but somewhat hapless grocery store clerk, struggles against tradition to keep custody of his only son after his wife passes away. Directed by Joshua Weinstein.

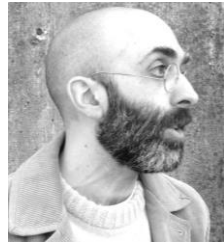
Monday, November 13, 2017

10:00 AM: "LITERATURE AND AUSCHWITZ: A FAMILY STORY"

Eduardo Halfon

Author of THE POLISH BOXER

Eduardo Halfon was born in Guatemala City, descendent from a Jewish family. He moved to the USA with his family at the age of ten. Although bilingual, Halfon chooses to write in Spanish and has published sixteen books. In 2011 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship to work on The Polish Boxer, which was the first of his books to be published in English, in 2012. It was a New York Times Editors' Choice selection in 2012 and finalist for the International Latino Book Award 2013.



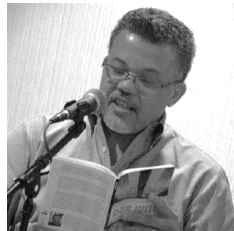
USA

12:15 PM: A CONVERSATION ON THE LITERATURE OF EXILE AND THE DIASPORA



Pablo Cartaya, Author and Director of the Graduate MFA in YA Writing; Sierra Nevada College, Director of The Betsy's Escribe Aquí/Write Here Project, funded by the Knight Foundation.

Geoffrey Philp, Poet, Miami Dade College; Philp, author of five books of poetry and Caribbean born, has recently discovered his Jewish heritage. Philp's "Poem for My Children" is one of 12 poems included on The Betsy's Poetry Rail. He will read the poem live, at the rail, at the conclusion of the panel.

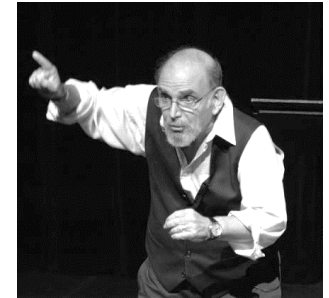


Cellist Jason Calloway has performed to acclaim throughout North America, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East as soloist and chamber musician, and is currently cellist of the Amernet String Quartet, Ensemble-in-Residence at Florida International University in Miami.

7:30 PM: "REMNANTS"

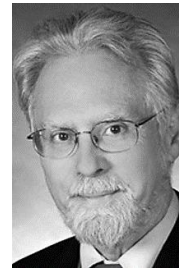
A performance by Dr. Hank Greenspan, Psychologist, Oral Historian, and Playwright, University of Michigan.

REMNANTS is based on forty years of conversations with Holocaust survivors. Forty minutes in length, the piece is stark and minimalist, each segment recreating moments in which survivors reflect not only on the destruction but also on their lives in the aftermath. REMNANTS was produced for radio in 1992 and distributed to NPR stations across the USA. As a stage play, REMNANTS has been presented at 200+ venues throughout the U.S. and Canada as well as in Britain, Israel, and the Czech Republic.



Tuesday, November 14, 2017

12:00PM: A JEWISH WRITER'S REFLECTION ON WRITING: ELIE WIESEL



Dr. David Patterson, Hillel A. Feinberg Chair in Holocaust Studies, University of Texas at Dallas

Dr. Patterson brings together the disciplines of philosophy, theology, Jewish thought, and Jewish mysticism in works that shed light on the origins of religiously sanctioned violence and genocide.

7:00PM: YIDDISHKEIT MEETS WALMART"

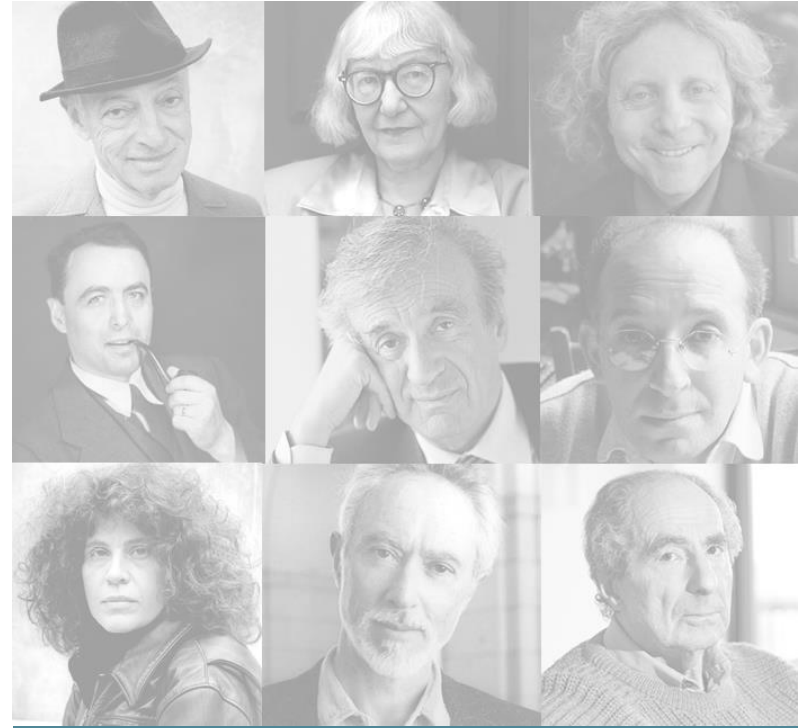
Erika Meitner, Director of the MFA Program; Virginia Tech

Meitner is a first-generation American: her mother was born in Stuttgart, Germany, where her maternal grandparents settled after surviving Auschwitz, Ravensbruck and Mauthausen concentration camps. Books include: Inventory at the All-Night Drugstore (Anhinga Press); Ideal Cities (HarperCollins); Makeshift Instructions for Vigilant Girls (Anhinga Press), and Copia (BOA Editions).



Symposium presenters:

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