

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### JOANNE JACOBSON

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#### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. American Studies, University of Iowa (1982)  
M.A. American Studies, University of Iowa (1978)  
B.A. American Civilization, University of Illinois, Urbana (1973)

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### Yeshiva University

- Professor Emerita of English, Yeshiva University (2019– )
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Yeshiva College (2006-2009, 2015-2018)
- Professor of English (2005-2018)
- Chair, Yeshiva College Department of English (2004-2006; 2013-2015)
- Acting Chair, Yeshiva College Department of English (Fall 2011)
- Director, Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program, Yeshiva College (2008-2009)
- Director of the Humanities, Social Sciences and Jewish Studies, Yeshiva College (2005-2006)
- Associate Professor of English, Yeshiva University (1990-2005)

##### Middlebury College

- Assistant Professor, American Literature & Civilization 1982-90)
- Director, American Civilization Program (1983-90)
- Visiting Instructor, American Literature (1981-82)

##### University of Angers, France

- Fulbright Lecturer (1979-80)

##### University of Iowa

- Teaching Assistant, American Studies and Rhetoric Programs (1975-79)

## HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Residency Fellowships, Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, Illinois (June 2012; December 2009; October 2006; August-September 2003; July-August 2001; September 1999; July 1998)

Residency Fellowships, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Amherst, VA (October 2011 [declined]; October 2009)

Residency Fellowship, Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Red Wing, MN (October 2010)

National Endowment for the Humanities Planning Grant for *Grass/Roots: American Jews in Suburbia* [title subsequently changed to *Rearview Mirror: American Suburbs/ American Jews 1945-1970*], March 2008 (co-curator, planned exhibition, Yeshiva University Museum)

Yeshiva University Summer Faculty Fellowship (2001)

Fulbright Lectureship, Tel Aviv University (for 1989-90; declined)

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (1986-87)

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend (1985)

American Council of Learned Societies Travel Grant (1985)

Ada Louise Ballard Dissertation Fellowship, University of Iowa (1980-81)

Fulbright Lectureship, University of Angers, France (1979-80)

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

*Every Last Breath* (University of Utah Press, 2020): follows two chronic illnesses that grew unexpectedly intertwined, when the author's first-person, present-tense writing about her mother's respiratory illness was interrupted by her own diagnosis with a rare blood disorder.

\*Silver Medal Winner in ESSAY category, Independent Publisher Books Awards 2021

*Hunger Artist: A Suburban Childhood* (Bottom Dog Press, Firelands College/Bowling Green State University, 2007): evokes the unraveling of one middle-class Jewish family's hopes of starting fresh on post-World War II suburban ground. (Selection reprinted in *The Suburbs Reader*, ed. Becky Nicolaides and Andrew Wiese, 2d ed., Routledge, 2006, p. 273.

*Authority and Alliance in the Letters of Henry Adams* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1992): uses the example of Adams's correspondence to argue that cultural conflict in the late nineteenth-century U.S. heightened a set of rhetorical priorities—authority and alliance, control and parity, collaboration and resistance—which the form was ideally positioned to serve.

### MEMOIR ESSAYS

“Garden Hunter” forthcoming, *Fourth Genre* (finalist, Steinberg Memorial Essay Prize 2022).

- "Eating America," *Gastronomica*, Volume 22 Number 3, Fall 2022, pp. 19-22.
- "The Sight of Blood," *Hektoen International: A Journal of Medical Humanities*, Vol 12 Issue 2, Spring 2020 (<https://hekint.org>).
- "Thoreau's Body," *Bellevue Literary Review*, Issue 35, Fall 2018, pp. 64-71 (semi-finalist, *Fourth Genre* Steinberg Essay Contest 2017; Pushcart Prize nominee 2019; cited as a notable essay of the year in *Best American Essays 2019*).
- "Written in Blood," *Southwest Review*, Vol. 101 No. 2, 2016, pp. 244-254 (semi-finalist, *Missouri Review* essay contest 2014; finalist, *Creative Nonfiction* essay prize 2015).
- "If My Disease Were an Animal, What Would It Be?" *Gulf Coast Online*, Winter 2016 (<https://gulfcoastmag.org/online/winter-2016/if-my-disease-were-an-animal-what-would-it-be/>) (Honorable Mention, *Gulf Coast* essay contest, judged by Maggie Nelson).
- "Mirror Writing," *Tampa Review* 2016 (51/52), pp. 105-106.
- "In the Year of Masking Tape," *Florida Review*, 2015, pp. 235-238.
- "Air Hunger," *Hospital Drive: The Literature and Humanities Journal of the UVA School of Medicine*, Summer 2013 (<http://news.med.virginia.edu/hospitaldrive/>).
- "Dead Reckoning," *Seneca Review*, Spring 2013, pp. 60-62.
- "My Mother, Gardening," *New England Review*, Summer 2013, pp. 38-42.
- "The Brain Has Its Secrets," *The Ilanot Review*, Winter 2013 (<http://ilanot.wordpress.com>)
- "Doctor Daddy," *Shadowbox—A Showcase of Contemporary Nonfiction*, Winter/Spring 2012 (<http://shadowboxmagazine.org>).
- "Counting in Seders," *Lilith*, Winter 2011-2012, p. 31.
- "Goodbye and Goodbye," *Great River Review*, Fall/Winter 2011, pp. 42-46.
- "Life Signs," *South Loop Review*, Fall 2011, p. 36.
- "Economy," *Atrium: The Report of the Northwestern Medical Humanities & Bioethics Program*, Spring 2011, p. 6.
- "Every Last Breath," *Fourth Genre*, Spring 2011, pp. 117-118.
- "Cheeseburger," *Alimentum*, Summer 2007, pp. 47-48.
- "My Father's Gardens," *Heartlands*, Fall 2006, pp. 48-49.
- "Hunger Artist," *American Literary Review*, Spring 2003, pp. 57-68.
- "American Children," *BOMB*, Summer 2001, pp. 94-98.
- "My Father, Reading," *New England Review*, Fall 1998, pp. 34-42 (cited as a notable essay of the year in *Best American Essays 1999*).
- "After the Miracle," *JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)*, 25 March 1998, p. 906.

**CRITICAL ESSAYS**

- "What We Talk About When We Talk About Autobiography: Henry Adams and Education Narratives," *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*, Vol. 33, 2018, Issue 1, pp. 25-28.
- "My Mother, My Story," *Journal of Medical Humanities*, March 2017, pp. 5-11.
- "Mr. Secrets: Henry Adams and the Breakdown of the Exemplary Tradition in American Autobiography," in *Henry Adams and the Need to Know*, ed. William Merrill Decker and Earl N. Harbert (Massachusetts Historical Society/University Press of Virginia, 2005), pp. 206-21.
- "Conscience on the Line: Plato's *Crito* and King's 'Letter from a Birmingham Jail,'" in *Universality and History: Foundations of Core*, ed. J. Scott Lee and Robert E. Wright (University Press of America, 2002), pp. 141-44.
- "Reading Jewish Identity: Biblical Story and its Limits," *Sh'ma: A Journal of Jewish Ideas*, 12 April 1996, pp. 4-5.
- "Critical Revisionism and the Return to Agency," *Massachusetts Review*, Winter 1993-94, pp. 521-32.
- "Resistance and Subversion in the Letters of Alice James," *Biography*, Fall 1991, pp. 366-78.
- "The Idea of the Midwest," *Revue Française d'Études Américaines*, April-July 1991, pp. 233-45.
- "Time and Vision in Wright Morris's Photographs of Nebraska," *Great Plains Quarterly*, Winter 1987, pp. 3-21.
- "The Quotidian in Twentieth-Century Fiction by Midwestern Women," *Revue Française d'Études Américaines*, November 1986, pp. 481-90.
- "The Chain That Binds Us: Thomas Cole's Letters as Mediators," *Hudson Valley Regional Review*, September 1986, pp. 20-39.

**REVIEW ESSAYS**

- Nancy K. Miller, *What They Saved: Pieces of a Jewish Past*, in *The Forward*, 30 September 2011, p. 14.
- David Kushner, *Levittown: Two Families, One Tycoon, and the Fight for Civil Rights in America's Legendary Suburb*, in *The Forward*, 24 April 2009, p. 13.
- Alison J. Clarke, *Tupperware: The Promise of Plastic in 1950s America*, in *The Nation*, 27 December 1999, pp. 30-32.
- Michael Lesy, *Dreamland: America at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*, in *The Nation*, 8 December 1997, pp. 32-34.
- Donald T. Critchlow, *Studebaker: The Life and Death of an American Corporation*, in *The Nation*, 3 March 1997, pp. 32-34.
- Geoffrey H. Hartman, *The Longest Shadow: In the Aftermath of the Holocaust*, in *The Nation*, 11 November 1996, pp. 30-32.
- Seymour Martin Lipset and Earl Raab, *Jews and the New American Scene* and Barry Rubin, *Assimilation and its Discontents*, in *New York Newsday Sunday Books Section*, 18 June 1995, pp. 37-38.

- Marianna De Marco Torgovnik, *Crossing Ocean Parkway: Readings by an Italian American Daughter*, in *The Nation*, 6 March 1995, pp. 314-16.
- Pierre Vidal-Naquet, *Assassins of Memory: Essays on the Denial of the Holocaust*, in *Michigan Quarterly Review*, Spring 1994, pp. 392-97.
- James E. Young, *The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning*, in *The Nation*, 18 October 1993, pp. 431-32.
- The Selected Letters of Henry Adams*, ed. Ernest Samuels, in *The Nation*, 15 June 1992, pp. 831-34.
- Ernest Samuels, *Henry Adams*, in *New England Quarterly*, December 1990, pp. 649-52.
- Andrea Fisher, *Let us now Praise Famous Women: Women Photographers for the U.S. Government 1935-1944* and Susan Ware, *Partner and I: Molly Dewson, Feminism and New Deal Politics*, in *Women's Studies International Forum*, January 1991, pp. 119-20

## PRESENTATIONS

### READINGS FROM *EVERY LAST BREATH*:

- Skokie Public Library, Skokie, IL, April 2022
- Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, New York, NY, April 2021.
- Yeshiva University Library, 2 March 2021.  
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/pxYoZqQV6Do>
- Medical Humanities Program, Montclair State University, March 2021.
- Medical Humanities and Society Program, Augustana University, February 2020.
- Yeshiva University Arthur B. Schneier Center/Yeshiva College Honors Program, February 2021.
- Physicians Literature and Medicine Discussion Group, Program in Medical Ethics & Humanities, University of Utah School of Medicine, February 2021.
- Writing & Humanities Program, University of Iowa Carver School of Medicine, December 2020.  
<https://uicapture.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=53d7d5d8-adfe-4ed2-abba-ac950029868e>
- Book launch, University of Utah Press. December 2020.  
<https://youtu.be/EySUGQzlu8Q>
- United States Thrombotic Microangiopathy Consortium—USTMA, August 2020.

“Writing Illness: *Every Last Breath* and Resilience.” Pearson Lecture, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, October 2021.

“Human resilience relies on language”: Beival *Exit Interview*, June 2022.  
<https://www.beival.com/exit-interview/exit-interview-joanne-jacobson>

“Wounded Literacy: Writing Hospital Time.” Montgomery Lecture, Feinberg School of Medicine Center. for Medical Humanities and Bioethics., Northwestern University, October 2020.

“Illness and the Limits of Narrative,” *Stories of Illness / Disability in Literature and Comics: Intersections of the Medical, the Personal, and the Cultural*, Berlin, Germany, October 2017.

- “Narrative in the Present Tense: Writing Chronic Illness,” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, January 2017.
- “What I Heard in the Hospital: Healing Space and Narrative Incompleteness,” *Health Humanities: The Next Decade*, Denver, CO, April-May 2015.
- “Faculty Memoirists.” Series in the Humanities panel discussion, Stern College, March 2013.
- “Whose Story IS It? *The Examined Life: Writing, Humanities, and the Art of Medicine* conference, University of Iowa Carver School of Medicine, Iowa City, IA, April 2012.
- “Remembering Eden: The American Suburb’s Sensory Landscape in Memoir” (keynote), *The Sensory Suburb* conference, National University of Ireland-Maynooth, December 2011.
- “Prophecy of Place: A Public Conversation with the Cross-Disciplinary Artist Quintan Anna Wikswo, Yeshiva University Museum/Center for Jewish History, New York, NY, September 2011.
- Readings and interviews from *Hunger Artist*, 2007-2010:
- Hofstra University (National Center for Suburban Studies/Jewish Studies Program), Hempstead, New York (March 2010)
  - Yeshiva University Museum, New York, NY (April 2009)
  - “Two Memories: Growing Up Jewish and Female” (with Ilana Blumberg), Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago, IL (December 2008)
  - Evanston History Center, Evanston, IL (April 2008)
  - United States Thrombotic Microangiopathy Consortium—USTMA, 22 Aug. 2020.
  - Hillel Foundation, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL (April 2008)
  - “Beneath the Surface of Jewish Suburbia” (accompanying screening of Doug Block’s *51 Birch Street*), Center for Jewish History, New York, NY (April 2008)
  - Milt Rosenberg’s *Extension 720*, WGN-Radio, Chicago, IL (December 2007)
  - White Plains Public Library, White Plains, NY (December 2007)
  - Book Culture bookstore, New York, NY (December 2007)
  - Women and Children First bookstore, Chicago, IL (November 2007)
  - Firelands College, Huron, OH (October 2007)
  - Cleveland Heights Public Library, Cleveland Heights, OH (October 2007)
  - Borders bookstore, Beachwood, OH (October 2007)
  - *Alimentum* Issue Four reading, HousingWorks, New York City (July 2007)
- “Two NEH History Projects,” Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, DC, December 2008.
- “Crossing the Culture Line: Jews in Suburbia on *The Goldbergs*,” American Studies Association, Albuquerque, NM, October 2008.
- Co-curator and moderator, “The Legacy of *The Goldbergs*,” symposium at the Center for Jewish History, New York, NY, co-sponsored by Yeshiva College, the American Jewish Historical Society, The Jewish Museum, the Yeshiva University Museum, and the Jewish Women’s Archive, 23 April 2006.
- “Geographies of Autobiography” (session comments), American Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 2005.
- “Promised Lands: A Suburban Jewish Childhood in Memoir,” Beth Emet the Free Synagogue, Evanston, IL, June 2005.
- “Learning Suburbia: *The Goldbergs*,” *New Visions of Suburban Life* interdisciplinary conference, Hofstra University, March 2005.

- Reading from *Hunger Artist*: Cupcake Women Writers series, New York, NY, October 2004.
- “Hunger Artist’: Autobiography & Jewish American Identity,” American Literature Association Jewish-American and Holocaust Literature Symposium, Boca Raton, Florida, October 2003.
- “Swans/Suburbs/Late Afternoon’: English Department faculty reading from their work,” Yeshiva College, April 2003.
- “Writing and Reading Tolerance,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Chicago, March 2002.
- “American Children” (reading), Twentieth-Century Literature conference, Louisville, Kentucky, February 2001.
- “Conscience on the Line: Plato’s *Crito* and King’s ‘Letter from a Birmingham Jail,’” Association for Core Texts and Courses, San Francisco, April 2000.
- “Family Album” (reading), University of Iowa American Studies Program, October 1999.
- Session Chair, American Studies Association-Canadian Association of American Studies, Montreal, October 1999; American Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 1997; “Individualization of the Holocaust,” Stern College for Women/Yeshiva University, October 1993; New England American Studies Association, April 1988, May 1991, April 1992.
- “American Secrets: The Receding Exemplary in American Autobiography,” French American Studies Association, University of Versailles-St. Quentin, May 1999.
- “The Way I See it,” four lectures on American autobiography sponsored by the New York Council for the Humanities, Westchester County public libraries, March-May 1997.
- “American Critics and the Holocaust,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 1995.
- “Story and the Limits of Story, *Ba-Midbar*,” Beth Emet the Free Synagogue, Evanston, IL June 1995.
- Session Comments, “Henry Adams and Women,” American Literature Association, Baltimore, May 1995.
- “Henry Adams and the Politics of Late-Nineteenth-Century American Letter Writing,” Yeshiva University Faculty Forum, April 1994.
- “The Unfamous,” four lectures on autobiography sponsored by the New York Council for the Humanities, New York City, October-December 1993 and March-May 1994.
- “Teaching *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*,” New England American Studies Association, Boston, April 1992.
- “Landscape and Idea: The Constructed Midwest,” French American Studies Association, Dourdan, May 1990.
- “Narrative Conflict and Cultural Boundaries in Jane Addams’s *Twenty Years at Hull House*,” American Studies Association/Canadian Association for American Studies, Toronto, November 1989.
- “Privileged Alliances: The Letters of Henry Adams,” Modern Language Association, San Francisco, December 1987.
- “Power and Community in Late-Nineteenth-Century American Letter Writing,” American Studies Association/Canadian Association for American Studies, New York, November 1987.

- "Community and Power in the Letters of Henry Adams," American and New England Studies Program, Boston University, September 1986.
- "The Remembered Midwest in the Images of Grant Wood and Wright Morris," New England American Studies Association, Boston, May 1986.
- "Landscape and Change in Sarah Orne Jewett's *Country of the Pointed Firs*," Essex, NY (sponsored by New York Council for the Humanities), February 1986.
- "The Daily in Twentieth-Century Fiction by Midwestern Women," French American Studies Association, Toulouse, April 1985.
- "The Idea of the Midwest," Abernethy Lecture Series, Middlebury College, February 1985.
- "American Regionalist Painting," Centre Régional de Documentation et Pédagogie, Tours, France, June 1983.
- "Images of American Regions," University of Tours, France, May 1983.
- "The Communities of Henry Adams's Letters," Abernethy Lecture Series, Middlebury College, March 1983.
- "The New Man's Self-Assertion and Self-Exposure in Crèvecoeur's *Letters from an American Farmer*," Midcontinent American Studies Association, Omaha, NE, April 1981.
- "Letters as a Source for American Culture Studies," American Studies Association, Minneapolis, MN, September 1979.
- "Democratic Responsibility in the Culture Criticism of Andrew Jackson Downing and Walt Whitman," Midcontinent American Studies Association/Ohio-Indiana American Studies Association, New Harmony, IN, April 1979.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Bioethics and Humanities Program, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University:  
*Body Language: Writing Our Bodies*

Yeshiva University:

*Writing Illness and Medicine; Narratives of Illness and Healing; Border Crossings: American Immigration Literature; American Nonfictions; Reading Suburbia; Encounters with the American Unknown: Early American Literature; Word of the New: American Writing 1865-1940; Writing Creative Nonfiction; Chicago & New York at the Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; Literature and Culture of Rural America; Literature and Culture of the American City; American Literature and Culture 1876-1918; American Literature and Culture 1919-1941; Jewish New York; Modern American Fiction; Contemporary American Literature; American Autobiography; American Jewish Literature; American Literature I and II; Composition I and II*

Jewish Community Center of Manhattan:

*Writing Cancer*

Middlebury College:

AMERICAN LITERATURE: *The American Character in Literature; American Literature 1620-1830; American Literature 1830-1865; American Literature 1865-1940; Mark Twain and Henry Adams; American Journeys; Fiction by American Women; American Autobiography; Literature of the Midwest; The American Landscape*  
AMERICAN CIVILIZATION: *American Culture 1929-1941; The South 1945-1960; Chicago in the 1890s; America 1783-1810; America at the Turn of the Century; Conflicts*

*of Power in the U.S. Since Watergate; The Idea of the Midwest in Twentieth-Century America; American Civilization Research Seminar*

University of Angers, France:

*Major Issues in American Culture; The Feminine Novel in England and America; The American Language; Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn; Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby*

University of Iowa:

*American Values (Introduction to American Studies); Rhetoric (freshman writing and speech); Methods in Historical Research and Writing (Iowa Elderhostel Program); The American Landscape—Establishing a Sense of Place; American Journeys; Confidence Games and Social Criticism in America*

### **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Admissions panel member in Nonfiction, Ragdale Foundation (2012)

Yeshiva University Faculty Council (Chair, Spring 2012; Executive Committee member Spring 2012-Spring 2013)

Advisory Group member, international Suburban Cultures Interdisciplinary Network (2010-2013)

Director, Yeshiva College Department of English Writer-in-Residence Program (1999-2018)

Manuscript Evaluator: Palgrave Macmillan (2012); University of North Carolina Press (1993, 1997, 1998); University of Massachusetts Press (1992); *Great Plains Quarterly* (1992)

Chair, Yeshiva University Distinguished Scholars Program selection committee (1996-2005)

Outside Evaluator, Montclair State University Department of English (2005)

Director, Yeshiva College Book Project (common text program for incoming first-year students), 1996-2003

Director, Yeshiva University Visiting Authors Program (1996-1998)

Photographer: author book jacket photo, Richard McCann, *La Mère des Chagrins*, Editions des Deux Terres (2006); Prisoner Assistance Clinic, University of Iowa Law School (1978, 1979); research intern, Iowa Division of Historic Preservation (1979); planning aide, Iowa Dept. of Transportation (1978)

Project Evaluator, National Endowment for the Humanities (1991, 1992, 2001, 2002)

Editorial Consultant, *The Gender Ironies of Nationalism*, ed. Tamar Mayer (Routledge, 1999); *Women and the Israeli Occupation: The Politics of Change*, ed. Tamar Mayer (Routledge, 1994)

Discussion Leader, "Success in Contemporary America," New York Council for the Humanities "Culture-Klatsch," Roosevelt Island (December 1994)

Secretary-Treasurer, New England American Studies Association (1985-7); Council Member (1987-90)

October 2022