

**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

- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Yeshiva College (2006-2009, 2015- )
- Professor of English (2005- )
- 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

- 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.  
(selections to be reprinted in *The Suburbs Reader*, ed. Becky Nicolaides and Andrew Wiese, 2d ed., forthcoming, Routledge)
- 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—largely concerned with authority and alliance, control and parity, collaboration and resistance—which the form was ideally positioned to serve.

### MEMOIR ESSAYS

- “Written in Blood,” forthcoming, *Southwest Review* (semi-finalist, *Missouri Review* essay contest 2014, finalist, *Creative Nonfiction* essay prize 2015).
- “If My Disease Were an Animal, What Would It Be?” forthcoming, *Gulf Coast* (Honorable Mention, *Gulf Coast* essay contest, judged by Maggie Nelson).
- “Mirror Writing,” forthcoming, *Tampa Review*.
- “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/](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 among the notable essays 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

- "My Mother, My Story," forthcoming, *Journal of Medical Humanities*.
- "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*, 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.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

*Extraordinary Time*: creative nonfiction project exploring chronic illness's disruptions of time, personal identity, and personal narrative.

*Every Last Breath*: essay cycle following my mother's chronic respiratory illness and the end-of-life issues that it raises.

*Remembering Eden: Memoirs of Growing Up in Suburbia* (edited volume).

## 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 Correspondence of Henry James and Henry Adams, 1877-1914*, ed. George Monteiro, in *The Henry James Review*, Spring 1993, pp. 229-31.

*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.

Henry Adams, *Sketches for The North American Review*, ed. Edward Chalfant, in *New England Quarterly*, September 1987, pp. 505-508.

*Solomon D. Butcher: Photographing the American Dream*, ed. John E. Carter, in *Great Plains Quarterly*, Winter 1987, pp. 44-45.

“On Joan Chase, Susan Engberg, and Douglas Unger,” *Iowa Review*, Spring-Summer 1986, pp. 193-99.

*The Best of George Ade*, ed. A.L. Lazarus, in *Indiana Magazine of History*, September 1986, pp. 281-82.

*The Letters of Henry Adams*, Volumes 1-3, ed. J.C. Levenson, et al., in *Philological Quarterly*, Fall 1984, pp. 533-37.

## PRESENTATIONS

“What We Talk About When We Talk About Autobiography” (session respondent), Modern Language Association, Austin, TX, January 2016.

“What I Heard in the Hospital: Healing Space and Narrative Incompleteness,” *Health Humanities: The Next Decade*, Denver, CO, 29 April-2 May 2015.

“Double Vision: The Imaginary of the American Suburb,” American Studies Program, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, April 2015

“Seeing Double: Henry Adams and the Shifting Narrative of the American Suburb,” American Literature Association, Boston, MA, 23-27 May 2013.

“Memoir in the Academy,” Yeshiva University Faculty Book Series in the Humanities panel discussion, Stern College, 18 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, 12 September 2011.

“Objects in the Mirror: Seeing and Re-Seeing Jews in the Suburbs,” *The Diverse Suburb* conference, Hofstra University, October 2009.

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)
- 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 comment), 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

Yeshiva University:

*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*

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- )

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)

January 2016