

JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM | FLORIDA ATLANTIC, BOCA RATON

# THE FLORIDA JEWISH EXPERIENCE

## SYMPOSIUM

**OCTOBER 26, 2025**

1 – 5 PM, SUNDAY

**OCTOBER 27, 2025**

8:30 AM – 5 PM, MONDAY

Friedberg Lifelong  
Learning Auditorium  
Florida Atlantic, Boca Raton



SYMPOSIUM CO-SPONSORED BY THE M.B. & EDNA ZALE FOUNDATION |  
FAU'S CENTER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS (PJHR) | DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

## **Sunday, October 26, 2025, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM** **The Osher Lifelong Learning Center at Florida Atlantic**

### **1:00 PM - 1:30 PM: Welcome**

Michael J. Horswell, PhD

Dean, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

Rachel S. Harris

Herbert and Elaine Gimelstob Eminent Scholar and Director of Jewish Studies

### **1:30 PM - 3:00 PM – Keynote**

Chair: Evan Bennett (Florida Atlantic University)

Deborah Dash Moore (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

“Aventura Adventure: How Three Jewish Builders Constructed Florida’s Largest Condominium”

### **3:00 PM: Coffee break**

### **3:30 PM - 5:00 PM – Session: Understanding Florida’s Jewish Populations**

Chair & Respondent: Randy Deshazo (South Florida Regional Planning Council)

Ira Sheskin (University of Miami)

“The Geography and Demography of Florida’s Jewish Population”

Matt Boxer (Brandeis University)

“From Small Towns to Big Cities: Surveying Florida’s Jewish Populations”

# THE FLORIDA JEWISH EXPERIENCE

**Monday, October 27, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM**  
**The Osher Lifelong Learning Center at Florida Atlantic**

**8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Session: Jewish Spaces in Florida: Real Estate, Military Bases, and Synagogues**

Chair: Michael Rapoport (Florida Atlantic University)

Amy Milligan (Old Dominion University)

“From Sand to Sky: The Jewish Aviators of Eglin Air Force Base”

Catherine R. Eskin (Florida Southern College)

“Jewish Sacred Space in a “City of Churches”: Temple Emanuel of Lakeland, Florida.”

Anna Andrezejewski (University of Madison-Wisconsin)

“Winter Wonderland: Jewish Real Estate Developers in the Postwar South Florida Boom 1945-1970”

**10:00 AM - 10:30 AM: Coffee**

**10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Session: A Doubled Minority: The Traditions of Immigrant Jews in Florida**

Chair: Yolanda Gamboa (Florida Atlantic University)

Marilyn Miller (Tulane)

“Late 19th Century Cuban Exile Communities in Key West, Tampa and post-Independence Havana”

Laura Limonic (Old Westbury)

“Latin Sephardic Miami: Living a Double Diaspora”

Rachel Benaim (Florida Atlantic University)

Moses Elias Levy and the Sefardic Legacy of Florida's First Senator, David Yulee

**12:00 PM - 1:30 PM: Lunch Break**

# THE FLORIDA JEWISH EXPERIENCE

## **1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Session: Stories, Screens, and Theme Parks: Jewish Florida in Cinema, Television, and Disney**

Chair: Andrew Furman (Florida Atlantic University)

Helene Meyers (Southwestern University)

“Mediating Memoir: Florida, Film, and the Geography of Jewish Identity”

Martin B. Shichtman (Eastern Michigan University)

“Magic City: Jewish Masculine Self-Fashioning in Mitch Glazer’s Miami”

Jodi Eichler-Levine (Lehigh University)

“Disney World and Florida Jewish Experiences: A Very Short History”

## **3:00 PM - 3:30 PM: Coffee break**

## **3:30PM - 4:30 PM Session: Not Always Welcome – Antisemitism in Florida**

Chair: Dana Adler (Florida Atlantic University)

Gary Mormino (University of South Florida)

“Antisemitism in 1930s Florida”

Seth Weitz (Dalton State)

““White on the Outside and Black Inside.” South Florida Jews and the Modern Civil Rights Movement.”

## **4:30 PM: Closing Remarks**

Adam Hasner

President of Florida Atlantic University

## **6:00 PM - 9:30 PM: Reception at Schmidt Art Gallery**

VIP 1920s Themed Party and Exhibition Opening

A Century of Jews in Boca Raton 1925-2025

(TICKETS REQUIRED - Purchase Here).