

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”

Seth Weitz (Dalton State)

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

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 Wisconsin-Madison)

“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 Abudarham-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: Matthew Ari Elfenbein (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: 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

Free and Open Event