

ROTH-UPDIKE
A Joint Conference of the Philip Roth and John Updike Societies
New York, NY
October 19-22, 2025
Schedule

Saturday, October 18 – Pre-Conference Arrival Day
Walker Hotel (52 West 13th Street—a 10-minute walk to the CJH)

3:00 pm Check in to Walker Hotel
3:00-5:00 pm Early Registration at the Walker Hotel
4:00-6:00 pm Happy Hour in the Parlour of the Walker Hotel (on your own)

Sunday, October 19 – Conference Day 1
Center for Jewish History (15 West 16th Street)
Link to MapQuest with directions: [Map](#)

8:15-9:00 am Registration, Mezzanine
9:00 am Conference Welcome: Aimee Pozorski and Adam Sexton

*All panels will take place in the CJH's **Kovno-Shavi Room** unless otherwise specified.*

9:15-10:30 am “Roth-Updike Intersections: A Roundtable Discussion” (Chair: George Searles)

Marshall Boswell
Sylvie Mathe
Quentin Miller
James Schiff
Matthew Shipe

10:45 am-12:00 noon “Visiting Updike’s Gravesite”
Michael Updike and Olga Karasik-Updike

12:00-1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30-2:45 pm “Roth & Updike Across Genres” (Chair: Mark Fisher)

- “Updike’s *New Yorker* Reviews: Educating Himself and Others about Africa,” Carla Ferreira
- “Philip Roth as War Writer from the First Stories to the Late Novels,” Madeline Lewis
- “Philip Roth: Political Soothsayer,” Ross Berger

3:00-4:15 pm “The Rural Spaces of Roth & Updike” (Chair: Maggie McKinley)

- “‘I knew I was kissing my own death’: Mother Figure in *Of the Farm*,” Biljana Dojcinovic
- “*Of the Farm*: A Jungian Reading,” Sue Norton
- “Philip Roth’s Nature,” Aimee Pozorski

5:00 pm “On Updike & Roth: A Keynote” with Adam Gopnik
(Moderated and Introduced by James Schiff)

6:00 pm Reception with Adam Gopnik in the Society Cafe of the Walker Hotel

Monday, October 20 – Conference Day 2
Center for Jewish History (15 West 16th Street)

8:15-9:30 am “Roth & / Updike &” (Chair: Shabir Hussain Mirza)

- “Roth’s Extension of IB Singer’s *The Family Carnovsky*,” Miriam Jaffe
- “*Madame Bovary* and Mister Roth,” David Eicke
- “Updike’s Murakami or Murakami’s Updike?” Louis Gordon

9:45-11:00 am “The Women of Roth and Updike” (Chair: Miriam Jaffe)

- “Gender, Cosmopolitanism, and Textuality in *Gertrude and Claudius*,” Takashi Nakatani
- “Faunia and Gertrude As Turning Points,” Meagan Malone
- “Howls for Recognition and Singularity: Artist, Muse, and Legacy in Roth and Updike,” Maggie McKinley

11:15 am-12:30 pm “On Space and Place in Updike and Roth” (Chair: Debra Shostak)

- “Roth Abroad,” Brett Ashley Kaplan
- “Brushing your teeth is political’: Vietnam Discourse in Roth and Updike,” Derek Graf
- “Newark Style,” Louis Gordon

12:30-1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30-2:45 pm “Aspiring Yet Abandoned Cartooning Career(s)”

Michael Updike

3:00-4:30 pm “Roth & Updike in the ‘70s & ‘80s” (Chair: Brett Ashley Kaplan)

- “The Carnavalesque in *A Month of Sundays*,” Pradipta Sengupta
- “The Sacred and Profane in *Marry Me*,” Nadia Szold
- “‘Such Things Can Happen’: *The Prague Orgy* and the Morality of Storytelling,” Luke Heister

Dinner on your own

7:00-8:00 pm Reading and Discussion with Taffy Brodesser-Akner (Moderated by Steven Zipperstein and Aimee Pozorski)

8:00 pm Reception with Taffy Brodesser-Akner, Center for Jewish History Atrium

Tuesday, October 21 – Conference Day 3
The Center for Jewish History (15 West 16th Street)

8:15-9:30 am “Personae” (Chair: Bernard Rodgers)

- “Writing to Myself and Others: When Bech and Zuckerman Talk Back,” Joseph Ozias

- “The Hauntings of Roth and Updike: Recurring Characters and Late Works,” James Carraghan
- “Guilty Parties: Updike and Roth,” Ira Nadel

9:45-11:00 am “U & R” (Chair: Ira Nadel)

- “*U & I* and *Moi*, *Philip Roth*: Admiring Mockeries of Roth and Updike,” Steven Sampson
- “Rothian Updike and Updikean Roth: Bech and *When She Was Good*,” Olga Karasik-Updike
- Roth/Updike Song, Jonathan Houlon

11:15 am-12:30 pm “Couples &” (Chair: Olga Karasik-Updike)

- “*Letting Go* and *Couples*,” Benjamin Seigle
- “*Portnoy’s Complaint* and *Couples*,” Jacques Berlinerbrau
- “Roth, Updike, and Priapic Paradise Lost,” Peter Bailey

12:30-1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30-2:45 pm “Roth, Updike, and History” (Chair: Benjamin Seigle)

- “Men Out of Time: *The Dying Animal*, *Villages*, and the Problem of the American Sixties,” Matthew Shipe
- “*Fin de Siecle*: Roth, Updike and the End of the American Century,” Christopher Love
- “Dialogical Explorations of Violent Anti-Americanism as Self-Styling Consumerism in *Terrorist* and *American Pastoral*,” Andy Connolly

3:00-4:00 pm “Rabbit, et al.” (Chair: Matthew Shipe)

- “Music and Memory in *Rabbit*, *Run* and *The Centaur*,” Shabir Mirza
- “Angstrom and the ‘Savvy Greek’: *Rabbit Is Rich* and the Mixed Blessing of Friendship,” Alexander Pitofsky

ROTH PEOPLE

- 4:00 pm** Leave for Newark Public Library via subway, New Jersey Transit
- 5:30 pm** VIP reception, Centennial Hall / Philip Roth Personal Library tour
- 6:30 pm** Lecture by Steven J. Zipperstein on *Philip Roth: Stung by Life*
- 8:00 pm** Book signing, dessert with coffee
- 9:00 pm** Return to New York

UPDIKE PEOPLE

- 4:00-5:30 pm** Explore NYC on your own
- 5:30 pm** Drinks at the Salmagundi Club, Fifth Ave. at 12th St.
- 6:30 pm** Presentation by James Schiff on *Selected Letters of John Updike*
- 7:30 pm** Dinner at the Salmagundi Club

Wednesday, October 22 – Conference Day 4
Center for Jewish History

- 8:15-9:00 am** Updike Society Business Meeting
- 9:00-9:45 am** Roth Society Business Meeting

10:00-11:00 am Roundtable on Mentoring and the Future of Author Societies (Chair: Aimee Pozorski)

Andy Connolly
James Plath
James Schiff
Matthew Shipe

11:15am-12:30 pm “In the Classroom and at the Writing Desk” (Chair: Adam Sexton)

- “Trust Me: Updike (and Roth) in First-Year Writing Classroom,” Matt Koch
- “Roth and Updike in Letters,” Jesse Tisch

12:45 pm Conference Wrap-Up and Awards

- The George Searles Award for Best Conference Presentation by an Emergent Scholar (Aimee Pozorski and George Searles)
- Awards for the John Updike Society (James Plath)

1:30 pm Closing lunch, location TBA