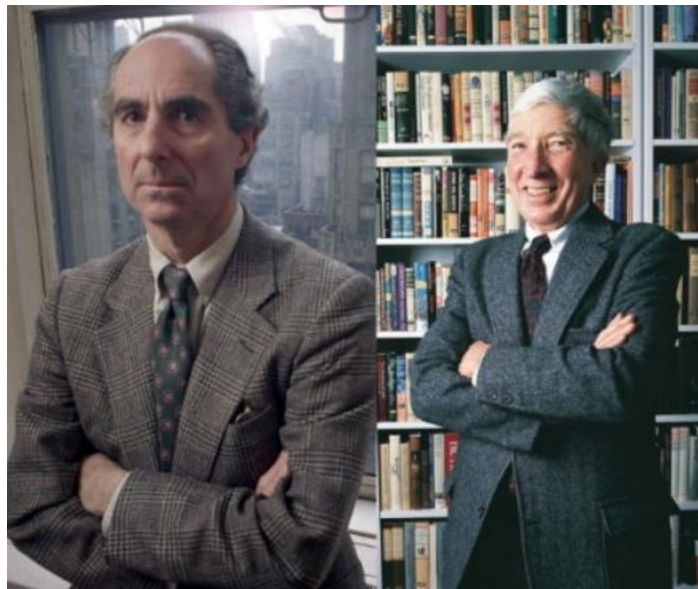


ROTH-UPDIKE

**A joint conference of the
Philip Roth and John Updike Societies**



Celebrating a literary friendship-rivalry

**The Center for Jewish History
Walker Hotel Greenwich Village
New York City, NY
October 19-22, 2025**

Conference Directors

Aimee Pozorski and Adam Sexton

Planning Committee

Andy Connolly, James Plath,
Aimee Pozorski, Adam Sexton, and Matthew Shipe

Keynote Speakers

Taffy Brodesser-Akner and Adam Gopnik

THE PHILIP ROTH SOCIETY

President

Andy Connolly

Secretary

Derek Graf

Executive Editors, *Philip Roth Studies*

Maggie McKinley and Matthew Shipe

THE JOHN UPDIKE SOCIETY

President

James Plath

Secretary

Peter Bailey

Treasurer

Marshall Boswell

Vice-President & Editor, *The John Updike Review*

James Schiff

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 18 – Pre-Conference Arrival Day **Walker Hotel Greenwich Village (52 West 13th Street)**

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 parlor of the Walker Hotel (on your own)

Sunday, October 19 – Conference Day 1 **Center for Jewish History (15 West 16th Street)**

8:15-9:00 am Registration, Lobby

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 J. Searles)

Sylvie Mathé
D. Quentin Miller
James Schiff
Matthew Shipe

10:45 -11:45am “On Updike & Roth: A Keynote” with Adam Gopnik
CJH Auditorium (Introduced by James Schiff)

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

1:30-2:45 pm “In the Cemetery High Above Shillington”
Michael Updike and Olga Karasik-Updike

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 Dojčinović
- “*Of the Farm*: A Jungian Reading,” Sue Norton
- “Philip Roth’s Nature,” Aimee Pozorski

4:30-5:30 pm “Roth Across Genres” (Chair: Mark Fisher)

- “Philip Roth as War Writer from the First Stories to the Late Novels,” Madeline Lewis
- “Philip Roth: Political Soothsayer?,” Ross Berger

6:00-8:00 pm Reception (open bar/food) in the Society Cafe of the Walker Hotel, sponsored by The John Updike Society and featuring “Phil and John’s Rag,” a Jonathan Houlon performance. After 8pm the Café will shift to cash bar for those who still want to socialize.

Monday, October 20 – Conference Day 2
Center for Jewish History

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 Eick
- “Updike’s Murakami or Murakami’s Updike?” Louis Gordon

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

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

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, CJH
Auditorium (Moderated by Steven Zipperstein and Aimee Pozorski)

8:00-9:00 pm Reception (open bar/food) with Taffy Brodesser-Akner, CJH Great Hall, sponsored by The Philip Roth Society

Tuesday, October 21 – Conference Day 3
Center for Jewish History

8:15-9:30 am “Personae” (Chair: Bernard F. Rodgers, Jr.)

- “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
- “Chapters of the Fathers: Paternal-Filial Bonds in Roth’s *Indignation* and Updike’s ‘My Father’s Tears,’” Jacob Wilkenfeld

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

- “*Letting Go* and *Couples*,” Benjamin Seigle
- “Coming to God in John Updike’s *Couples*: A Most Un-Rothian Form of Carnality,” Jacques Berlinerblau
- “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 Siècle*: 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 Hussain Mirza
- “Harry Angstrom and the ‘Savvy Greek’: *Rabbit Is Rich* and the Mixed Blessing of Friendship,” Alexander Pitofsky

SPECIAL ROTH EVENT

- 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

SPECIAL UPDIKE EVENT

- 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 am-11:00 am “In the Classroom and at the Writing Desk” (Chair: Adam Sexton)

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

11:15-12:15 am Roundtable on Mentoring and the Future of Author Societies (Chair: Aimee Pozorski)

Andy Connolly

James Plath

James Schiff

Matthew Shipe

12:30-1:15 pm Conference Wrap-Up and Awards

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

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Taffy Brodesser-Akner is a staff writer at *The New York Times Magazine* and the author of two novels: *Fleishman Is in Trouble* (2019, Random House), which she adapted into an Emmy-nominated limited series for FX in 2022; and *Long Island Compromise* (2024, also Random House). She lives in New York City.

Adam Gopnik has been writing for *The New Yorker* since 1986. During his five decades at the magazine, he has published more than a million words, in hundreds of essays, from personal memoirs to reviews and profiles, along with much reporting from abroad as well as fiction, humor and art criticism. His books, ranging from essay collections about Paris and food to children's novels, include *Paris to the Moon*, *The King in the Window*, *A Thousand Small Sanities: The Moral Adventure of Liberalism* and, most recently, *The Real Work*. He has written essays on and introductions to new editions of works by Moliere, Balzac, Maupassant, Proust and Victor Hugo, and is the editor of both the Richard Wilbur/Moliere and S.J. Perelman volumes in the Library of America. His work in the musical theater includes the libretto and lyrics for the musical comedy "Our Table" with David Shire, and for the oratorio "Sentences" with Nico Muhly. Gopnik has won the National Magazine Award for Essays and for Criticism three times, as well as the George Polk Award for Magazine Reporting. In January of 2021, he was created an officer of the Legion d'honneur, France's highest civilian or military decoration. He had previously, in March 2013, been named a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters. He has also received a honoris causa from his Alma mater, McGill University, and an honorary doctorate from the Rhode Island School of Design. He lives in New York with his wife, Martha Parker, and their two children, varyingly present, Luke Auden and Olivia Esme Claire. Gopnik knew Updike as "a long-distance mentor" and Roth as "a constant presence at our table."

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS AND MODERATORS

Peter Bailey, St. Lawrence University

Ross Berger, USC School of Cinematic Arts, ArtCenter College of Design

Jacques Berlinerblau, Georgetown University

James Carraghan, Kutztown University

Andy Connolly, Hostos Community College

Biljana Dojčinović, Belgrade University

David Eick, Grand Valley State University, Michigan

Mark Fisher, University of California, Irvine

Louis Gordon, Independent Scholar

Derek Graf, New York Institute of Technology

Luke Heister, University of Buffalo

Jonathan Houlon, Independent Scholar

Miriam Jaffe, Rutgers University

Brett Ashley Kaplan, University of Illinois
Olga Karasik-Updike, Independent Scholar
Matthew Koch, Tarrant County College
Madeline Lewis, Central Connecticut State University
Christopher Love, University of Alabama
Meagan Malone, University of Alabama
Sylvie Mathé, Université de Provence
Maggie McKinley, Harper College
D. Quentin Miller, Suffolk University
Shabir Hussain Mirza, Degree College Tral, Pulwama
Ira Nadel, University of British Columbia
Takashi Nakatani, Yokohama City University
Sue Norton, Technological University Dublin
Joseph Ozias, University of Cincinnati
Alexander Pitofsky, Appalachian State University
James Plath, Illinois Wesleyan University
Aimee Pozorski, Central Connecticut State University
Bernard F. Rodgers, Jr., Bard College at Simon's Rock
Steven Sampson, Independent Scholar
James Schiff, University of Cincinnati
George J. Searles, Mohawk Valley Community College
Benjamin Seigle, University of Illinois, Chicago
Pradipta Sengupta, M.U.C. Women's College, Burdwan
Adam Sexton, Yale University
Matthew Shipe, Washington University
Debra Shostak, The College of Wooster
Nadia Szold, Filmmaker, Independent Scholar
Jesse Tisch, Independent Scholar
Michael Updike, Independent Scholar
Jacob Wilkenfeld, Harold Washington College
Steven Zipperstein, Stanford University