

## **The Betsy Hotel's Yiddish Salon Series Announces Second Year of Programming**

Ocean Drive Hotel Invites Community Members for a monthly Yiddish/Spanish/English VINKL

(Miami Beach, Florida) The Betsy-South Beach announces its schedule for the second year of a program that celebrates the legacy of Yiddish language and culture at a monthly Yiddish Speaker's Salon. Salons are held once a month on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 11 AM at The Betsy Hotel, 1440 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach. Admission is free but require an rsvp to [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com). The Audience is limited to 80 people.

### The Betsy's Yiddish Salon Dates for Fall 2017

September 17, October 15, November 12, December 10

### The Betsy's Yiddish Salon Dates for Spring 2018

January 21, February 18, March 25, April 15, May 6

Fluent in Yiddish, Dr. Asher Milbauer is the host for the series. Upon moving to Miami to take a position at FIU 30 years ago, Dr. Milbauer visited the Betsy's environs frequently to speak Yiddish with enclaves of retirees (and Holocaust survivors) who frequently gathered from dawn to dusk to share stories. Milbauer was born in Russia, emigrated to Israel then the USA, received a Doctorate in English from the University of Washington, has served on the faculty of Florida International University Department of English for more than 30 years, and is currently Founding Director of FIU's Exile Studies Program.

The Betsy's Yiddish Salon Series always welcomes a special guest to frame a discussion that highlights Yiddish language and culture. Guests in the first year of the program (2016-17) included Dr. Miriam Hoffman, Professor Emeritus – Columbia University, Author Steve Stern – Skidmore College, Holocaust Survivor Samuel Marder, Entrepreneur George Feldenkreis – founder of Perry Ellis International, Dr. Alan Berger-Florida Atlantic University, Author and Performer Jake Ehrenreich, Yiddish Theater Drama Desk Nominee, Avi Hoffman, members of the award-winning Amernet String Quartet (Jason Calloway and Michael Klotz), and Dr. Curt Leviant, author of *The King Of Yiddish*.

Presenters for the 2017-18 season will be announced in August. The Betsy's 2017-18 Program will explore the intersection of Latino and Yiddish/Jewish culture to celebrate residents who grew up speaking Spanish and Yiddish. Recent demographic information released by the Greater Miami Jewish Federation underscores the recent growth of this community in Miami Beach and surrounding areas. *Miami Beach 'back in the day' was known by locals as a Shtetl by the Sea, in tribute to a vibrant Jewish Yiddish-speaking community that for the most part had emigrated from Eastern Europe. Yet between the years 1982 and the early 2000's, the presence of these (and all) Yiddish speakers declined due mostly to elderly Jews passing away. In 2014, The Great Miami Jewish Federation released a study showing an increase in the number of Jews living in the area which they attribute to an increase in Latino and Orthodox households.*

The Betsy's Yiddish Salon series is part of a larger hotel initiative called PACE, that champions communities from various cultural backgrounds and walks of life with ongoing programs in philanthropy, arts, culture, and education. *"I remember my grandmother speaking Yiddish in our home as do so many of our Sunday Morning guests at the salon", said Betsy owner Jonathan Plutzik, "and I know how vibrant Yiddish-speaking culture was on South Beach a generation ago. It's our privilege to honor this history by revisiting it with the goal of preserving even just a small part of it, and building a new community around it".*

### **About The Betsy**

The Betsy-South Beach ([thebetsyhotel.com](http://thebetsyhotel.com)) is a luxury boutique hotel located on Ocean Drive that embraces *'things that matter'* under the auspices of a Philanthropy, Arts, Culture, and Education Program - with a very special focus on poetry and literature. Each room at the hotel has a small library, and a poetry bookmark is placed on each guest's pillow every night. Since reopening in 2009, the hotel has become a catalyst for energized discourse, innovative thinking, and charity, working with hundreds of nonprofit partners. A robust range of programming related to Jewish topics includes programs that take place all year long; the hotel is host and producing partner to the annual Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Conference, as well as The Betsy/FIU Exile Writers in Residence Program. The Betsy Writer's Room has hosted 500+ resident artists and thought leaders since 2012 ([Thebetsywritersroom.com](http://Thebetsywritersroom.com)). Jonathan Plutzik and Lesley Goldwasser are principal owners of The Betsy-South Beach. Dr. Deborah Plutzik-Briggs, Vice President for Philanthropy at The Betsy directs the PACE program and Co-Hosts The Betsy's Yiddish Speakers Salon (with Dr. Asher Milbauer). The Betsy is located at **1440 Ocean Drive**, Miami Beach. 33139

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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