

# MIAMI BEACH JCC'S **LITERARY SERIES**

**NOVEMBER - MARCH**  
ONCE A MONTH

*A Novel*



The Literary Series at the MBJCC brings talented writers from across the country to Miami Beach. Events take place on Wednesdays during our JCC-U program.

All books are available at the MB JCC for purchase, thanks to our community partner Books & Books. A percentage of your purchase is donated to the Arts & Culture program at the MBJCC. The author will sign books at each event.

## Third Annual Community Read Luncheon: Martha Hall Kelly, *Lilac Girls*

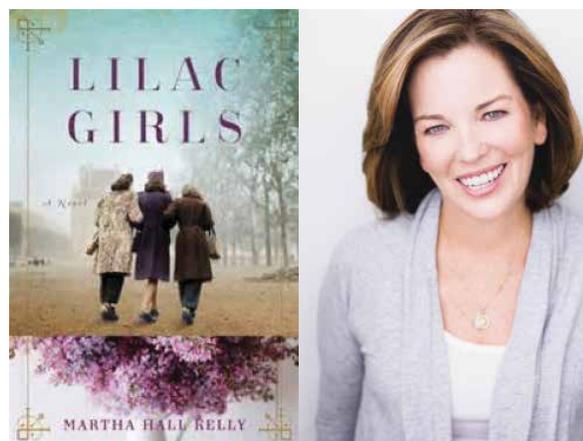
- 📅 Wednesday, November 9
- 🕒 11 am - Book Club Discussion
- 12:30 pm - Author Presentation and Luncheon
- 💎 \$36

Calling all book clubs, community groups and bibliophiles! We invite you to choose *Lilac Girls*, the critically acclaimed novel by first-time *New York Times* best-selling author **Martha Hall Kelly**, as your book of choice for the month of November. All are welcome to come early for a book discussion, followed by a sit down luncheon and author presentation.

Inspired by the life of a real World War II heroine, this remarkable debut novel reveals the power of unsung women to change history in their quest for love, freedom, and second chances.

New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939—and then sets its sights on France. An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences. For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power. The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents—from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland—as Caroline and Kasia strive to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten.

*Martha Hall Kelly is a native New Englander now living in Atlanta, GA, where she is writing her next book. Lilac Girls is her first novel.*



## Boris Fishman, *Don't Let My Baby Do Rodeo*

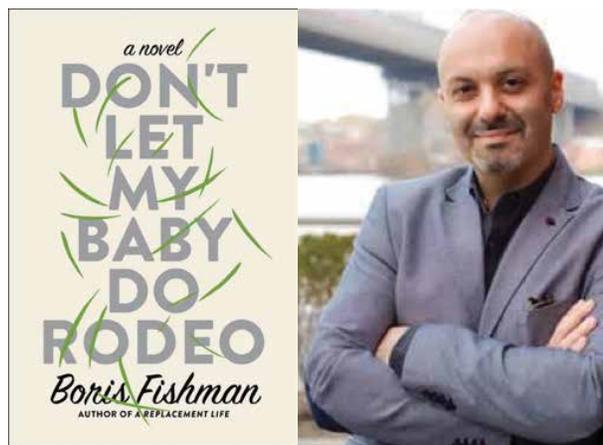
- 📅 Wednesday, December 21
- 🕒 11 am - Book Club Discussion
- 12:30 pm - Author Presentation and Luncheon
- 💎 \$25 | Members: \$18 | Patron of the Arts: Free

*Don't Let My Baby Do Rodeo* is a novel about the mystery of inheritance and what exactly it means to belong.

When Maya Shulman and Alex Rubin first met, she was a Ukrainian exchange student with “a devil in [her] head” about becoming a chef instead of a medical worker, and he the coddled son of Russian immigrants wanting to toe the water of a less predictable life. 20 years later, Maya is a medical worker in the suburbs, and Alex his father's second in the family business. The great dislocation of their lives is their eight-year-old son Max, adopted from two teenagers in Montana.

When Max suddenly starts acting feral, Maya convinces Alex to embark on a cross-country trip to Montana to track down his birth parents—the first drive west of New Jersey of their American lives. But it's Maya who's illuminated by the journey, her own forgotten wildness summoned for a reckoning by the unsparing landscape, with seismic consequences for herself and her family.

*Boris Fishman was born in the former Soviet Union and immigrated to the United States at nine years old. His first novel A Replacement Life was a New York Times 2014 Notable Book of the Year and won the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award, among other honors. His journalism has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine, and many other publications. He lives in New York City.*



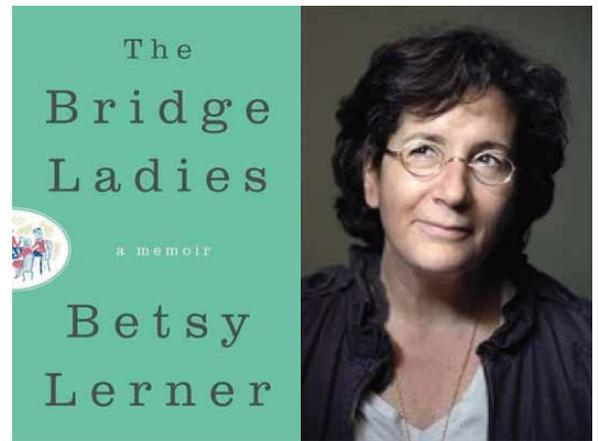
## Betsy Lerner, *The Bridge Ladies*

-  **Wednesday, January 25**  
 **11 am – Book Club Discussion**  
**12:30 pm – Author Presentation and Luncheon**  
 **\$25 | Members: \$18 | Patron of the Arts: Free**

Betsy Lerner takes us on a powerfully personal literary journey, where we learn a little about Bridge and a lot about life, as a fifty-year-old Bridge game provides an unexpected way to cross the generational divide between a daughter and her mother.

For the past 50 years, Betsy Lerner's Jewish mother, Roz, has attended Bridge club with the same four Jewish women. Lerner practically grew up with these Bridge Ladies, but it wasn't until she returned home to help her mother recover from surgery in 2013 that she really started to wonder about them. Lerner found herself newly curious about the women she'd known her whole life: spunky Bea, the doctor's wife; careful Bette, who trained as an actress; reticent Jackie, a world traveler; and exuberant Rhoda, the most observant of the group and executive director at the local temple. Under their always-coiffed hair, lipstick, and prim coordinated outfits, Lerner wondered, what were their secrets, their desires, their struggles?

*Betsy Lerner is the author of The Bridge Ladies, The Forest for the Trees, and Food and Loathing. She received an MFA in Poetry from Columbia University and was the recipient of a Thomas Wolfe Poetry Prize, an Academy of American Poets Poetry Prize, and was one of PEN's Emerging Writers. After working as an editor for 15 years, she became an agent and is currently a partner with Dunow, Carlson & Lerner Literary Agency.*



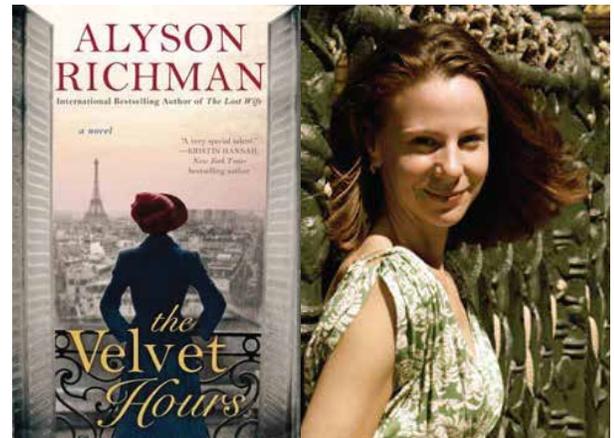
## Alyson Richman, *The Velvet Hours*

-  **Wednesday, February 15**  
 **11 am – Book Club Discussion**  
**12:30 pm – Author Presentation and Luncheon**  
 **\$25 | Members: \$18 | Patron of the Arts: Free**

We welcome back Alyson Richman to the Miami Beach JCC with her latest historical fiction novel, *The Velvet Hours*.

Inspired by the true account of an abandoned Parisian apartment, Alyson Richman brings to life the stories of courtesan Marthe de Florian, her granddaughter Solange Beaugiron, and the unlikely relationship between two women who pursue freedom and independence during uncertain times. Solange and Marthe's stories unfold like velvet itself, each stitched with their own shadow and light.

*Alyson Richman is the international bestselling author of The Mask Carver's Son, The Rhythm of Memory, The Last Van Gogh, The Lost Wife, and The Garden of Letters. Her novels have been published in eighteen languages and have been bestsellers in several countries. The Lost Wife is currently in development to become a major motion film.*



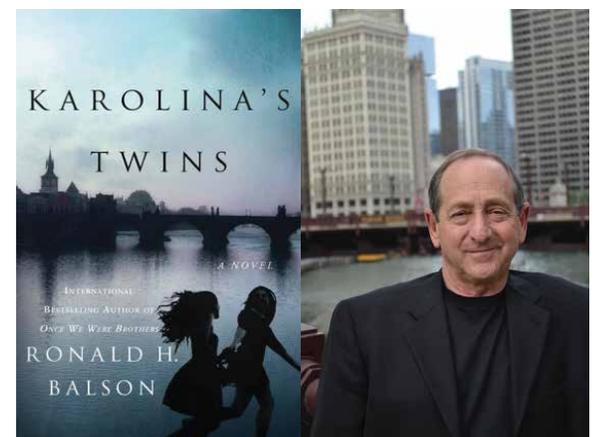
## Ronald Balson, *Karolina's Twins*

-  **Wednesday, March 15**  
 **11 am – Book Club Discussion**  
**12:30 pm – Author Presentation and Luncheon**  
 **\$25 | Members: \$18 | Patron of the Arts: Free**

Back to the MBJCC with his third novel in just three years, Chicago attorney Ronald Balson will present our final Literary Series book of the season.

*Karolina's Twins* is a saga inspired by the true events of a Holocaust survivor's quest to fulfill a promise to return to Poland and find two sisters lost during the war. It is a tale of survival, love, and resilience in more ways than one. As Lena recounts her story, Catherine herself also recognizes the unwavering importance of family as she prepares herself for the arrival of her unborn child. Through this association and many more, both Lena and Catherine begin to cherish the dogged ties that bind not only families and children, but the entirety of mankind.

*Ronald H. Balson is a Chicago trial attorney, educator, and writer. His practice has taken him to several international venues. He is also the author of Saving Sophie and the international bestseller Once We Were Brothers.*



# JOIN OUR BOOK LOVERS CLUB!

PLANNING TO ATTEND ALL FIVE LITERARY SERIES EVENTS?  
WE'VE MADE IT EASY FOR YOU.

**SERIES** ♦ \$120 | **Members:** \$90

## INCLUDES:

- ✔ One ticket to the Community Read Luncheon
- ✔ Two tickets for you and a guest to each of the four additional Literary Series events
- ✔ Day pass for JCC-U programming on the day of the Literary Series events  
(visit [mbjcc.org](http://mbjcc.org) for more information about JCC-U)
- ✔ 20% discount on all book purchases

*Thank you to our dedicated Arts & Culture Committee and Volunteers.*

**Linda Schechter**, Arts & Culture Co-Chair

**Mytyl Simancas-Bister**, Arts & Culture Co-Chair

**Holly Levy**, Fundraising and Patrons Chair

**Barbara Eisenberg**, Literary Series Co-Chair

**Debbie Sack**, Literary Series Co-Chair

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**Barbara Berg**

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**Pam Mayer**

**Laurie Miller**

**Rita Restler**

**Iris Slomovitz**

**Mindy Solomon**

**Meryl Wolfson**

**Linda Winters**

▲ Interested in volunteering at one of our events?

Please contact Karen Sepsenwol, Director of Cultural Arts & Adult Programs:

✉ [karen@mbjcc.org](mailto:karen@mbjcc.org) | ☎ x214

## SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS

We are looking for Sponsors to help underwrite this program. Become a title sponsor of the entire Literary Series, or sponsor a particular event. We thank you for your support.

## BECOME A PATRON OF THE ARTS

Make a \$1,000 donation to benefit the Arts & Culture program which directly helps fund the programs you have grown to love. Patrons have priority access to a wide variety of events throughout the season.

▲ For more information, please feel free to contact Holly Levy: ✉ [hollylevy@aol.com](mailto:hollylevy@aol.com).