

Jewish Author Series

Saul Bellow: One of the 20th Century's Greatest Authors

Sponsored by the Meyers Library

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, AT 7:00 PM

Historical and Biographical Introduction, with Evonne Kruger

Bellow lived from 1915 to 2005. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, the Nobel Prize for Literature, and the National Medal of Arts. He is the only writer to win the National Book Award for Fiction three times.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, AT 1:00 PM

Short Story Discussion, "A Silver Dish," with Evonne Kruger

This is a 1978 short story first published in *The New Yorker*. The story observes sixty-year-old Chicago businessman Woody Selbst as he comes to terms with the death of his father, a con-man and petty thief. "A Silver Dish" was collected in a volume of Bellow's stories entitled *Him with His Foot in His Mouth*, published in 1984. Copies of the short story are available in the Meyers Library.

TUESDAY MARCH 24, AT 1:00 PM AND 7:00 PM

Film: "Seize The Day"

After losing his job, his girlfriend, and his sanity, salesman Tommy Wilhelm packs up for New York City to try to repair the pieces of his broken life. His skill as a salesman comes naturally, but his strained relationship with his father certainly does not. Tommy must face the father he never really knew while trying to balance the new life that he attempts to carve out for himself. The film is based on a novel of the same name by Saul Bellow.

TUESDAY MARCH 31, AT 1:00 PM

Short Story Discussion, "The Old System," with Isaak Kruger

Originally published in Playboy in January, 1968. Some consider this the best of Saul Bellow's short stories.

Dr. (Samuel) Braun is visiting his dying sister, Tina, in the hospital. The two siblings had had a fight and subsequent falling out many years prior, and Tina has only agreed to let her brother into her hospital room if he pays her thirty thousand dollars. Dr. Braun comes with the money, but Tina refuses it, instead offering her brother their mother's ring off her finger as she lays dying.

For questions or more information, contact the Meyers Library at 215.887.8700 x 417 or library@kenesethisrael.org



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