More than four decades have passed since Irving Howe memorably suggested that American Jewish writing had "probably moved past its high point" and predicted an ever-"thinner" future for this literature. It's true that the generation of Bellow, Malamud, and Roth has passed. But it's equally true that Jewish literature is alive and thriving—and much of that vibrancy is coming from the work of women writers. This talk will reframe the older critical discussion for our current moment, identifying new directions in American Jewish literature—and the multiple women writers whose work exemplifies them.

Erika Dreifus earned undergraduate and graduate degrees, including a PhD in history, from Harvard University, where she taught history, literature, and writing for several years. She is the author of Birthright: Poems and Quiet Americans: Stories, which was named an American Library Association/Sophie Brody Medal honor title for outstanding achievement in Jewish literature. A fellow in the Sami Rohr Jewish Literary Institute, she writes and lectures frequently on topics Jewish and literary.

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