The Europe Center's Program on Sweden, Scandinavia, and the Baltic Region presents

NELLY SACHS
Migration and Memory, Poetry and Context

The Europe Center:
The Europe Center at Stanford University’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and Division of International, Comparative and Area Studies is dedicated to innovative thinking on international relations and culture in the new millennium.

As part of its public programming, the Europe Center, along with sponsoring partners the Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts and the Taube Center for Jewish Studies, invites you to this special workshop and dramatic poetry reading in celebration of the life, poetry, and the evocative context of Nelly Sachs, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature.

For more information:
http://europe.stanford.edu
or (650) 724-9656

For more information:
http://europe.stanford.edu
or (650) 724-9656

Nelly Sachs

“In the summer of 1939 a German girl friend of mine went to Sweden to visit Selma Lagerlöf, to ask her to secure a sanctuary for my mother and myself in that country. Since my youth I had been so fortunate as to exchange letters with Selma Lagerlöf; and it is out of her work that my love for her country grew. The painter-prince Eugen and the novelist helped to save me.

In the spring of 1940, after tortuous months, we arrived in Stockholm. The occupation of Denmark and Norway had already taken place. The great novelist was no more. We breathed the air of freedom without knowing the language or any person. . . .”

- Nelly Sachs,
Nobel Banquet, Stockholm
Dec. 10, 1966

Nelly Sachs, poet and playwright, was born in Berlin, and emigrated during WWII to freedom in Stockholm. Her career as a poet of note started only after her emigration, when she was nearly fifty years old. Her first volume of poetry, In den Wohnungen des Todes (In the Houses of Death), 1947, creates a cosmic frame for the suffering of her time, particularly that of the Jews. Although her poems are written in a keenly modern style, with an abundance of lucid metaphors, they also intone the prophetic language of the Old Testament. (From Nobel Lectures, Literature 1901-1967, Editor Horst Frenz)

Nelly Sachs received awards in Sweden and Germany, among them the Prize of the Swedish Poets Association (1958) and the “Friedenspreis des deutschen Buchhandels” (1965). For her collective lyrical works of intense engagement with the Shoah, Nelly Sachs was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1966.

616 Serra Street
Stanford, CA 94305
650.724.9656
650.723.0089 fax
http://europe.stanford.edu

For more information:
http://europe.stanford.edu
or (650) 724-9656
Nelly Sachs - Migration and Memory, Poetry and Context
Thursday, March 8, 2012  ❖  4:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Albert M. Bender Room at Green Library, Stanford University

This special event also celebrates the first biography of Nelly Sachs to be published in English, the newly release *Nelly Sachs: Flight and Metamorphosis*, edited by Aris Fioretos (copies available for purchase and author signing).

4:30 pm
Reception, meet the speakers, viewing of special displays from the Stanford Library collection, and book signing by Aris Fioretos

5:00 pm
Workshop discussion featuring:
- Amir Eshel  
  Stanford University
- Aris Fioretos  
  Humboldt University, Berlin
- Deniz Göktürk  
  University of California, Berkeley
- Axel Englund  
  Europe Center Anna Lindh Fellow / Stockholm University
- Anna Stenport  
  Europe Center Anna Lindh Fellow / University of Illinois
- Leslie Morris  
  University of Minnesota
- Lucy Alford  
  Stanford University

With dramatic readings of selected poems by Nelly Sachs given by:
- Andrew Utter  
  Uranium Madhouse Theater, Los Angeles

7:00 pm
Reception and extended viewing of images from the new book and selections from the Stanford Library collection, and book signing by Aris Fioretos

About the Speakers

- Lucy Alford (Stanford) is a doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature. She holds a PhD in Modern Thought from the University of Aberdeen. Her research focuses on modern and contemporary poetry and poetics, and the crossings between ethical and aesthetic experience. Her poems have been published in the US and the UK.

- Axel Englund (Stockholm University) held a 2011-12 Anna Lindh postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University’s Europe Center. He is currently a scholar of Literature and Musicology at Stockholm University. Englund is the author of a forthcoming book *Still Songs* on the poetry of the German-speaking Holocaust survivor Paul Celan, and its interplay with music.

- Amir Eshel (Stanford) is Edward Clark Crockett Professor of Humanistic Studies, Departments of German Studies/Comparative Literature, and director of The Europe Center at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and Division of International, and Comparative Area Studies. His forthcoming publication is *Futurity: Contemporary Literature and the Quest for the Past* (German and English editions).

- Leslie Morris (University of Minnesota) is Associate Professor of German. Her research and writing includes the poetic of memory, diaspora; Czernowitz; German-Jewish Studies; translation and Jewish text; Jewish body art; sound and acoustic memory of the Holocaust. Professor Morris is completing the book *The Translated Jew: Jewish Writing Outside the Margins* and is co-editing a volume of essays, *Three-Way Street: German, Jews, and the Transnational*.

- Anna Stenport (Stanford University and University of Illinois) holds an Anna Lindh fellowship and is a visiting Associate Professor at The Europe Center. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, writing on contemporary European and Nordic film and media industries. Professor Stenport is the author of a book on Swedish director Lukas Moodysson’s debut feature *Show Me Love*. She has also published extensively on playwright and novelist August Strindberg.

- Andrew Utter (Uranium Madhouse Theater company), MFA Yale, PhD Stanford, is a stage theater director, instructor at the Mother of Invention Acting School, and founder of Uranium Madhouse in Los Angeles.

The Europe Center would like to thank the following people and organizations for their generous support of this event:
The Barbo Osher Pro Suecia Foundation • Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts • Taube Center for Jewish Studies • Stanford University Press • Michael Keller (Ida M. Green University Librarian) • Zachary M. Baker (Stanford Library Reinhard Family Curator of Judaica and Hebraica Collections) • Elizabeth Fischbach (Exhibits Manager & Designer, Cecil H. Green Library) • Stanford Bookstore • Consulate General of Sweden (San Francisco) • Suhrkamp Verlag

Sponsors