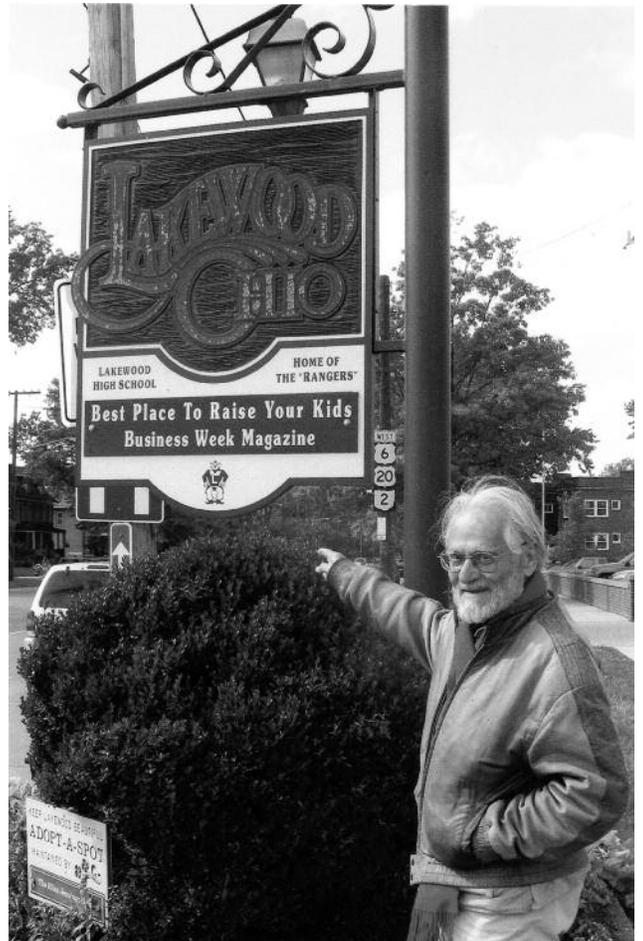


MEET THE LEGENDARY LAKEWOOD AUTHOR

When a Psychopath Falls in Love by Herbert Gold

Not Dead Yet: A Feisty Bohemian Explores the Art of Growing Old by Herbert Gold

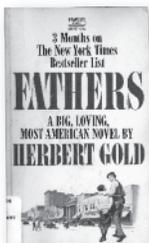
San Francisco literary icon, Herbert Gold, the chronicler of Bohemia for more than sixty years, has skipped around the world with extended stays in Haiti, written some thirty books, fathered five children, buried two wives, worked as a carnival barker, learned Russian in the Army, studied philosophy at Columbia University, got his masters at the Sorbonne as a Fulbright scholar and made fast friends (and sometimes bitter enemies) with heavyweight authors like Saul Bellow, William Faulkner, Graham Greene, Allen Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs, Richard Wright, James Baldwin and Norman Mailer. As amazing as it may sound, it all started here in Lakewood at Taft Elementary when Miss Collins tenderly stroked his hair and told him he was a good little writer. All these years later, he's still writing to please her.



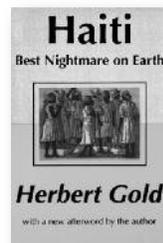
Gold's Market at 11719 Detroit Avenue

At ninety years of age, Herbert Gold is still spry, energetic and charming, full of questions and stories to tell. We were delighted to find, when we first extended our invitation, that the no-longer-young author was too busy because he was finishing up his twentieth novel and preparing for another adventure in Haiti. But he found the time. It's not surprising that Gold should want to return to his hometown, given how often it springs up in his work. In fact, he's come back many times over the years to drop in on old friends, see how the city has changed and be reassured that it somehow stays the same. Now he returns to take the stage at the Library to share his memories in person and reconnect with the Lakewood he had to leave behind.

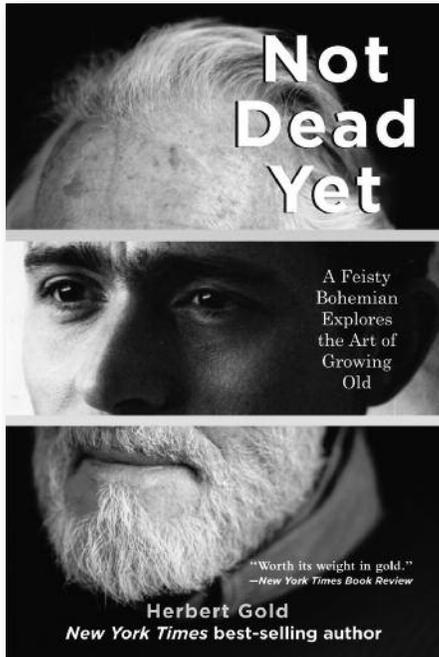
THE HERBERT GOLD BOOKSHELF



Gold's most widely acclaimed novel tells the story of his father's journey from Poland to a grocery store in Lakewood, and explores the challenges of being Jewish in America. What does it take to become an American?

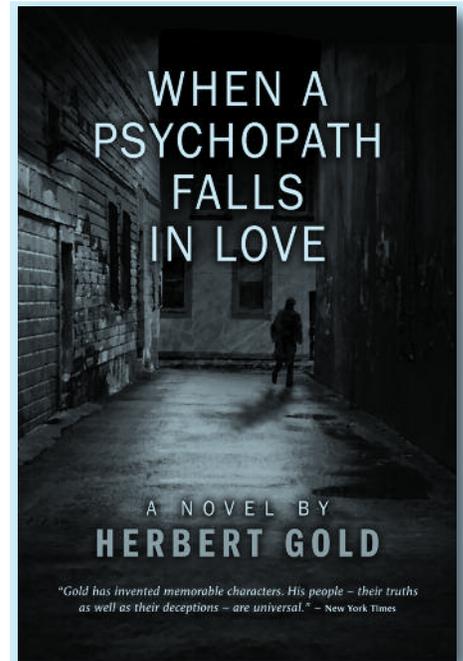


Stories from Gold's love affair with the country he called "Beautiful... bizarre... dangerous... exotic, a Garden of Eden fallen into despair, a tiny nation of unimaginable misery and unpredictable grace, an island where life is a kind of literature, a world of unlimited impossibility."



In his recent memoir, *Not Dead Yet*, Gold forgoes the linear chronological approach to autobiography and, instead, flashes back and forth between hip 60s California, postwar Paris, prewar New York, Haiti in transition from dictator to dictator and an idyllic Lakewood childhood that is only occasionally shattered by anti-Semitic taunts. Even the individual chapters refuse to proceed in a straightforward manner, beginning with small scenes, emotions and closely observed details, leaving things like setting and context to flesh themselves out in the reader's mind as they follow along. ("Complaints may be addressed to the Literary Structure Licensing Bureau.") One cannot know where Gold will take them next, and the effect is refreshingly like life itself. What might seem like a satiric sketch one minute may give way to honest heartbreak the next, beloved characters come and go without warning and profound wisdom pops up in the most unexpected, and often embarrassing, places. This meditation on love and loss, memory and aging, is not a book for the dying, but an encouragement for those who mean to continue living.

We are thankful that Herbert Gold shows no signs of slowing down. As Saul Bellow once warned him, "Never count a writer out while he's still alive." His latest novel arrives on shelves in February 2015. *When a Psychopath Falls in Love* features a protagonist, Dan Kasdan, who has appeared in different incarnations in several of his books, Gold says, "He's been inhabiting me for a long time, and now he's more alive than ever." Dan begins the novel reeling from the sudden appearance of an unknown daughter, left over from the Summer of Love, who arrives with a half-employed husband, a disabled child and demands for care, attention and cash. As a distraction, he allows his sleazy lawyer friend, Ferd Conway, who recently suckered him into a shady land deal in Haiti, to manipulate him into pursuing a love affair with Petal, a young woman his daughter's age. But when Ferd begins to pursue Dan's daughter and presents himself as both a lover and a father figure, well... When a psychopath falls in love, it had better not be with the wrong person. That could lead to murder.



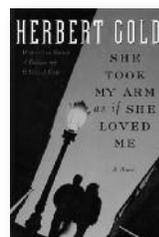
Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Thursday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

THE HERBERT GOLD BOOKSHELF



Gold has wrestled with his Jewish identity and the nature of his connection to other Jewish people around the world since his Lakewood childhood. This early memoir collects a lifetime of thoughts and crystalizes them with poetic flourish.



In another incarnation, Dan Kasdan finds work as a private eye in San Francisco. This tracker of lost memories and souls manages to find Priscilla, the love of his life, only to lose her somewhere along the way between the 60s and the 90s.