

Miriam N. Kotzin, Professor of English, came to Drexel in 1969 with a PhD from NYU in American Literature and a BA from the University of Pennsylvania (1965). She later served as associate department head for 8 years and director of the English Major for 3. She was a founding Director of the Certificate Program in Writing and Publishing (2004-2012).

In 1992 she received an Exemplary Teaching Award. She has taught a variety of literature and writing courses, including freshman composition, creative writing, writing for business, and technical writing. About ninety-five hundred students and more than forty-five thousand papers graded!

In addition to committee work, Kotzin served as a faculty advisor. For more than a decade, she was faculty advisor to *Maya Literary Magazine*; for more than 20 years advisor to Drexel's chapter of *Sigma Tau Delta*, the English Honors Society. She is also a member of the faculty advisory committee of the Judaic Studies Program.

At W. W. Hagerty's request, Kotzin wrote *A History of Drexel University: 1941-1963* (Drexel 1983). Author of articles on literature, pedagogy, and film, she also was a contributing editor of *Media & Methods*, a long-time juror for The American Film Festival, and a judge for the Philadelphia Writers' Conference.

In his essay about Kotzin's writing, "Outwitting Weeping," critic Donald Kuspit says, "She uses comedy and language to outwit mourning..." Her most recent book is a novel, *Right This Way* (Spuyten Duyvil Press 2023) that begins just after the main character, a scamp past middle age, looks up from weeding his garden and sees God's face in the sky. In a series of fiascos, he tries to minimize the damage he causes. He wants the impossible: he wants to please his wife, two other women—and himself. *Right This Way* joins a satiric political novel, *The Real Deal* (Brick House Books 2012), collection of short fiction, *Country Music* (Spuyten Duyvil Press, 2017), and a collection of flash fiction, *Just Desserts* (Star Cloud Press 2010). She is the author of five books of poetry: *Debris Field* (David Robert Books, 2016), *The Body's Bride* (David Robert Books, 2013), *Taking Stock* (Star Cloud 2011), *Weights & Measures* (Star Cloud Press 2009), *Reclaiming the Dead* (Star Cloud Press 2008).

Second Acts, a column of her creative nonfiction, appeared in *The Smart Set*, and her stories and poems have been published in more than 100 journals such as *Boulevard*, *Shenandoah*, *Smokelong Quarterly*, *Southern Humanities Review*, and *The Tower Journal*. Five of her poems are exemplars in Lewis Turco's *Book of Forms*, 4th ed. Her fiction and poetry received 10 nominations for the Pushcart Prize, and her writing has been translated into Chinese and Polish.

In 2005 she founded the online quarterly *Per Contra: the International Journal of Literature, the Arts, and Ideas*, for which she was editor-in chief until 2016, and a contributing editor of *Boulevard* for more than 30 years.

She was active in a number of community organizations. For 20 years she served on the Board of Directors of Hillel of Greater Philadelphia, she is a member of *Phi Beta Kappa* and was on the board of directors of PBK's Philadelphia Gamma Association and in 1976 president. She was also a member of the poetry committee of the YM/YWHA for two decades, chairing the committee 1981-83.

She enjoys cooking and arranging flowers, and she received a certificate in floral design from Longwood Gardens. She is the life-partner of Joe Danciger, a magician and artist, and stepmother to sons Bram and Nathaniel, and happy grandmother to Nathaniel's and his wife Kelsey's two daughters, Jane and Johanna.