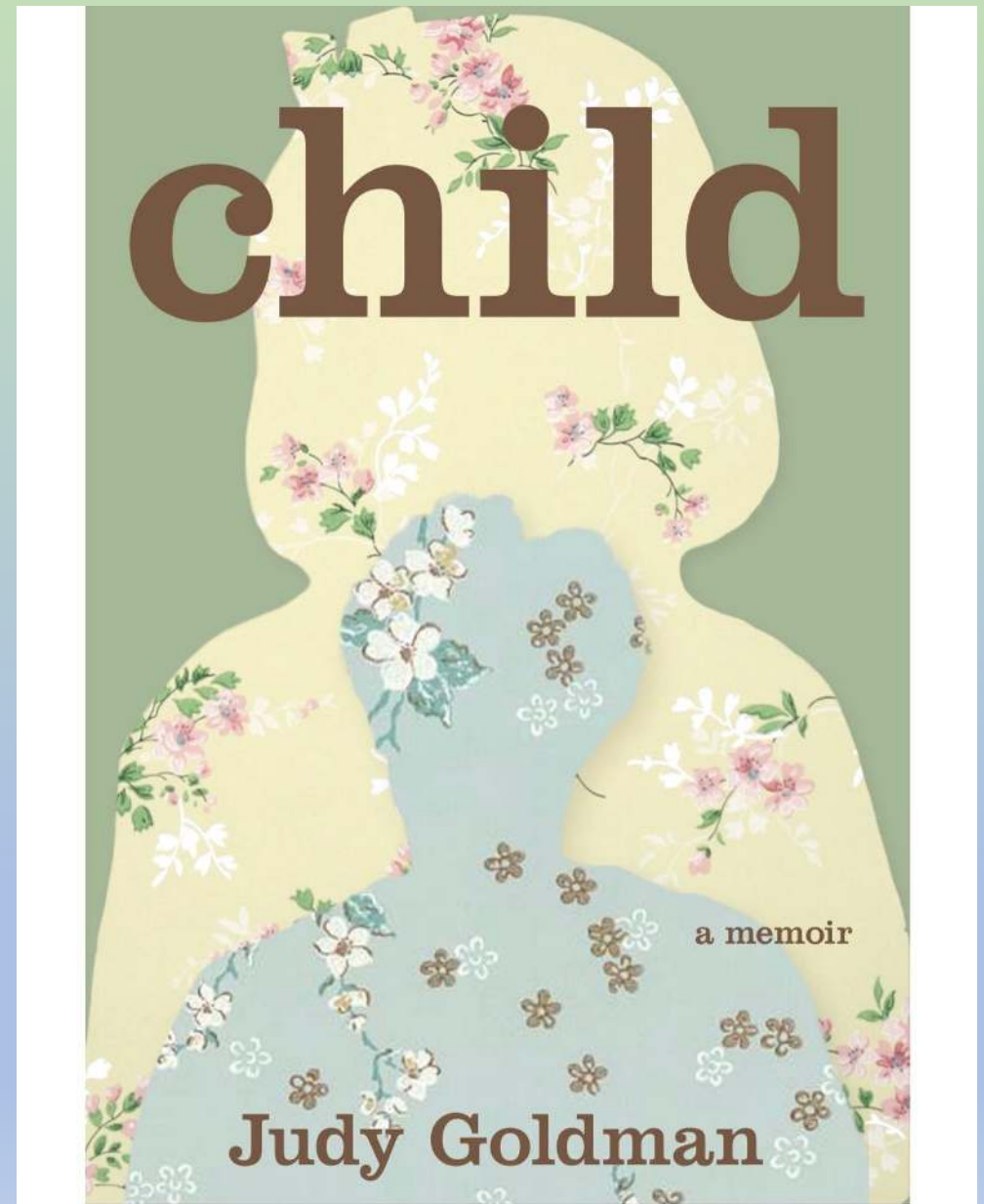


# **LOVE IN THE SHADOW OF WHITE PRIVILEGE AND RACISM**

**Judy Goldman**  
**Novelist, Poet and Memoirist**

**Presentation to Senior Scholars at  
Queens  
November 11, 2022**

A privileged white woman writing about her relationship with her Black maid.





- ✓ Memoirists must write about what scares us.
- ✓ A memoirist needs to be twice as hard on herself as anyone else in her book.

## A Reading: Prologue from *Child: A Memoir*

*“Like thousands of white southerners in my generation, I was raised by a Black woman who had to leave her own child behind to work for a white family. At least that’s what I always believed ... ”*

The author,  
Judy Kurtz  
Goldman  
(age 3), 1944



Mattie Culp,  
around the  
time she came  
to work for the  
Kurtz family,  
1944



I've wanted to  
write this book  
for **40 years!**



Mattie Culp, 1975



# The Importance of Reflection in Memoir.

Voice of  
Innocence  
vs. Voice of  
Experience



Mattie and Judy, 1981

What do I know  
now that I didn't  
know then?

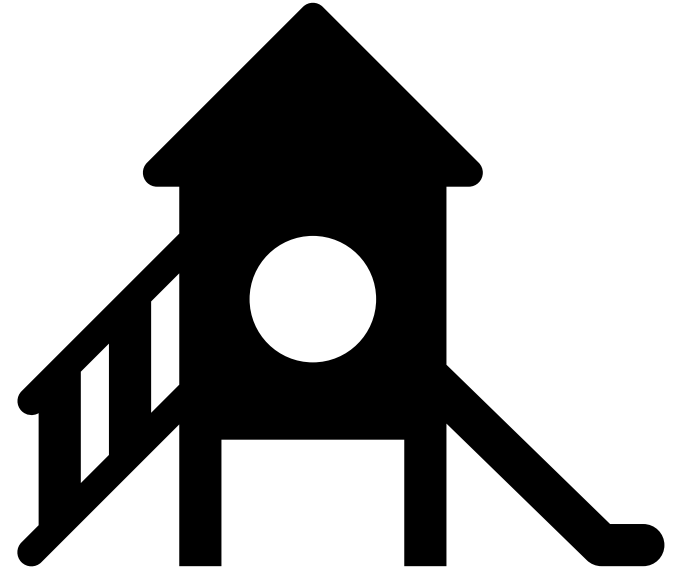


Mattie and Judy, Thanksgiving, 2000



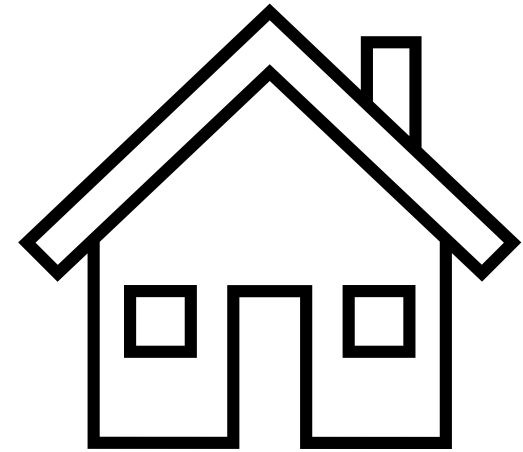
## **A Reading: Chapter 9 from *Child***

*“One February afternoon in 1949, when my parents were away, Mattie and I walked up to the playground at Winthrop Training School, where I was in second grade. This particular day, we had the playground to ourselves. I climbed on the rain-rusted iron jungle gym, ... ”*



**A Reading:** Part of Chapter 3  
from *Child*

*“Around the time I was four, in 1945, a tiny white frame house was being built on a narrow vacant lot on Myrtle Drive, one street over. Mattie and I watched it rise from the raw earth ... ”*





Q&A  
with  
audience