Gerald Goldberg, Distinguished Professor of English, Emerita, at the University of California, Los Angeles, died on the evening of June 2, 2020 at Lenox Hill Hospital, NYC. He was 90 years old.

Goldberg was a professor at UCLA from 1964-1991 before becoming an Emeritus Professor from 1991-2020. He was a founding professor of UCLA’s Creative Writing Program who mentored a generation of young California writers who would go on to be novelists and screenwriters. Goldberg also taught at Dartmouth, Williams, and Queens College. He was a Fulbright Professor of English at the University of Zaragoza Spain and a Fellow of the Institute of Creative Arts (University of California 1966-67, 1969-70).


He is survived by his family including wife Nancy Marmer (art critic and former Managing Editor of Art in America), son Robert Goldberg (former TV critic for the Wall Street Journal, writer/producer), grandson James Goldberg (writer/producer). His brother Michael Goldberg (d. 2007) was an Abstract Expressionist painter with works in the collections of MOMA, Whitney, and Guggenheim.

Gerald Jay Goldberg was a leading American novelist – a stylist of dark humor and startling imagery. “His prose sparkles,” said the New York Times Book Review. “A talent of exciting strength,” said the L.A. Times. He is remembered by his family and students nationwide for his wit, his wry grin, and the extraordinary warmth with which he met the world.