



*and the Jean Koshar & Samuel Rothstein Memorial  
Fund present:*

## **Adult Education for the year 5777**

Congregation Etz Hayim is offering many different and interesting adult education experiences throughout next year. According to the sage Maimonides, "The advancement of learning is the highest commandment." Join us to deepen your knowledge or to learn something new!

Please register for classes. Call or email the Congregation office at 703-979-4466 or [office@etzhayim.net](mailto:office@etzhayim.net). We can also arrange for babysitting.

### **The 9:30 Club**

The 9:30 Club is in its second year! We gather at 9:30am on the second Saturday of the month for a half hour meditation prior to services, and on the third Saturday of the month to learn about the weekly Torah portion (*Parashat Hashavuah*). No Hebrew knowledge necessary, no prior meditation experience necessary, just come and enjoy this learning opportunity! Stay and pray at 10:00am at Shabbat services.

### **1. Jewish-American Literature and the Jewish-American Experience**

*Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 10:00am*

*Taught by Dr. Faye Stollman Moskowitz*

Dr. Faye Stollman Moskowitz, Professor Emerita of Creative Writing and English at the George Washington University, will be speaking about Jewish-American literature and how it has changed as the Jewish experience in the United States has changed.

Faye is the author of *A Leak in the Heart*, *Whoever Finds This: I Love you*, *Peace in the House*, and *And the Bridge is Love*, recently

republished by Feminist Press. She is editor of *Her Face in the Mirror: Jewish Women on Mothers and Daughters*. Her poems, essays, stories, and book reviews have appeared in hundreds of venues including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Woman's Day* and *Readers' Digest*. She has been a commentator for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." Faye is a two-time winner of the PEN Syndicate Fiction Award. She has given countless lectures and readings throughout the U.S. and in Canada and Israel. She was fiction editor of *Lilith* Magazine and presently is poetry editor of *Moment* Magazine.

### **2. Shabbat Book Club**

*Second Saturday of the month beginning November 2016 (skipping April)*

Join us on the second Saturday of the month after morning services as we explore Israel through a book discussion of *My Promised Land: The Tragedy and Triumph of Israel* by Ari Shavit. We will go through the book chapter by chapter with guided discussion. Please read the first chapter prior to the first meeting!

### **3. JSSA presents: How to Talk with Pre-Teens and Teens about Tough Topics**

*Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 10:00am*

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) provides high-quality clinical and social services to individuals and families in the DC metro area. A member of their professional staff will lead a discussion about approaching tough topics with pre-teens and teens. Join us to gain tools for discussions during these challenging times.

### **4. "An Ordinary Hero" (Movie and Guest Speaker)**

*Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 10:00am*

Watch the movie and meet legendary Civil Rights activist, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland. "An Ordinary Hero" is the amazing true story of one woman's courage to help change the world by joining the Civil Rights Movement. By the time she was 19, she was imprisoned and put on death row -- but that's just the beginning of her remarkable journey.

Ms. Mulholland has received numerous awards and recognition

for her work. Most recently she was recognized alongside other female Freedom Riders by President Barack Obama. She has received Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.'s Annual Award of Honor, and the Anti-Defamation League Annual Heroes Against Hate Award.

### **5. A Future in the Middle East**

*Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 10:00am*

*Taught by Stephen Grand*

Stephen Grand is a nonresident senior fellow in the Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World, where he served as director from 2006 to 2013. From 2004 to 2006, Stephen was director of The Aspen Institute's Middle East Strategy Group. He has also served as an adjunct professor at American University's School of International Service, and Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. From 2002 to 2003, he was an international affairs fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

He will be discussing his recent project for the Brookings Institution: investigating how the USA, along with stakeholders in the Middle East, might put the Middle East on a better long-term trajectory. His most recent book is *Understanding Tahrir Square: What Transitions Elsewhere Can Teach Us about the Prospects for Arab Democracy* (Brookings Institution Press, 2014).

### **6. Rabbinic Tricksters: Talmudic Tales of Sex, Intrigue, and Authority**

*Sundays, January 29, February 5, and Feb 12, 2017 at 10:00am*

*Taught by Rabbi Julia Watts Belser*

In this three-part workshop, we'll grapple with provocative tales from the Babylonian Talmud that tackle questions of sexuality, sin, and subversion. An illustrious rabbi who disguises himself as a Roman soldier to rescue a woman from a Roman brothel skirts the edge of the forbidden to save himself from imperial pursuit; a learned woman outsmarts rabbinic authority and works around her own exclusion from the law; and a rabbi's wife disguises herself as a prostitute and seduces her own husband to protest his sexual celibacy. We'll use these stories to grapple with Jewish reflections on power and resistance—and to explore how and why our sages celebrated the trickster's capacity to outwit the dictates of the powerful and subvert unjust authority.

Rabbi Watts Belser is Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies in the Theology Department at Georgetown University, with a focus in Talmud, rabbinic literature, and Jewish ethics. Her research brings ancient texts into conversation with disability studies, queer theory, feminist thought, and environmental ethics. She is the author of *Power, Ethics, and Ecology in Jewish Late Antiquity: Rabbinic Responses to Drought and Disaster* (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

### **7. JSSA presents: The Changing Passover Table**

*Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 10:00am*

Do you have fond memories of your grandparents and parents hosting Passover seders? Eventually, however, the generations shift and you become the host. Who do you invite to your seder? How does the dynamic change when your children leave home and later return with partners and (maybe!) grandchildren? What if you have no one to host a seder for?

A clinical social worker from the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) will talk about changes in family structure over time and how these changes relate to our observance of Jewish traditions. Come share your story with us!

### **8. Discovering Israel with an Israeli**

*Sunday, March 5 and Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 10:00am*

*Taught by Na'ama Gold*

As Shlichah (Israeli Emissary) for the JCC, Na'ama Gold, will be guiding us through conversations about Israeli society and posing questions for further discussion.

### **9. Things in Jewish Tradition You Didn't Think Were Jewish**

*Sundays, March 19, March 26, and April 2, 2017 at 10:00am*

*Taught by Rabbi Jack Moline*

Who knew? There are long-standing traditions in our own religion and culture that we think are entirely non-Jewish. Explore three of them: resurrection, the winter solstice festival, and the story of the prodigal son. Through Biblical and rabbinic texts, we'll discover that we have a lot more in common with other groups than we might have thought.

Rabbi Jack Moline is president of Interfaith Alliance and Rabbi Emeritus of Agudas Achim Congregation in Alexandria.