

# Winter 2012 Semester Begins Feb. 1!

#### Tuesdays at 7 PM

at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History 1811 R St NW (near Dupont Circle Metro-Red Line)

Stitching for Soldiers—Feb. 7
New Insights into the Binding of Isaac—Feb. 7
American Jewish Life through its Cookbooks—Feb. 21
Novels of Saul Bellow—March 6
Jewish Population: Is it Increasing or Decreasing—March 20

#### Wednesdays — 7 PM and 8:30 PM

at Adas Israel Congregation, 2850 Quebec Street NW (near Cleveland Park Metro-Red Line)

Israel and the Arab Spring—Feb. 1
Jewish Voters and the 2012 Election—Feb. 1
Jewish Communities of the American West—March 14
Psalms Ancient and Modern—March 14

#### LEAP . . . INTO LEAP YEAR 2012!

#### At the 35th Annual Latke-Hamentasch Symposium

Adas Israel Congregation, 2850 Quebec Street NW, DC (near Cleveland Park Metro-Red Line))

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 7:00-9:00 P.M.



\$12 JSC, Adas members and students; \$15 non-members

Register for all our courses at www.jewishstudycenter.org

Email: <u>info@jewishstudycenter.org</u> Phone: 202-332-1221

#### About the Jewish Study Center

The Jewish Study Center was founded in 1978 as an independent nonprofit institute of adult Jewish education in the Washington, D.C. area. The mission of the Jewish Study Center is to provide classes and programs of Jewish study in the widest breadth of topics as possible, and to this in an atmosphere where any person, regardless of background or level of current involvement, can feel comfortable studying and establishing a serious relationship with the Jewish tradition.

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Presented by the Greater Washington Forum on Israeli Arab Issues and co-sponsored by the Jewish Study Center

#### Strengthening Israel's Democracy: Arab Citizens of Israel

Sunday, January 22, 2012 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm American University, Ward Circle Building Nebraska Avenue at Ward Circle Washington, DC



Free parking available in the American University commuter parking lot- Nebraska and New Mexico Aves., NW Free shuttle available leaves every 15 minutes from Tenleytown Metro Station - Albemarle and 40th Sts., NW

To register, visit: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/IsraeliArabs2012">http://tinyurl.com/IsraeliArabs2012</a>
Fee for advance registration; \$5 at the door without an AU student or staff ID

# Tuesday Nights at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History 1811 R Street, NW—(1 block NE of Dupont Circle Metro-Red Line) (Co-sponsored with the Museum)

### Stitches for Soldiers

During the months of February, March and April, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and the Jewish Study Center are hosting <u>Stitches for Soldiers</u>: These will be <u>stitching bees—free sessions</u> where people can bring their stitching projects that they wish to create for our active military personnel. Sessions are scheduled for February 21, March 6, 20 and April 3 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. No registration required — just come.



Bring your projects for sweaters, gloves, hats (yes, even yarmulkes) socks, and small blankets and sit and stitch with us. You can even provide a name and address of an active duty friend or family member and each session we will pick a name of a person to receive something made from the group. Please visit the museum's website (<a href="www.nmajmh.org<http://www.nmajmh.org">www.nmajmh.org</a>) under the heading Recent News and Special Announcements for more information on specific requirements made by the military for knit garments worn by active service personnel.

National Museum of American Jewish Military History, 1811 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009 is conveniently located near the Dupont Circle Metro-Red Line and the L2 and S2, S4 bus routes. For info: <a href="mailto:mwestley@nmajmh.org">mwestley@nmajmh.org</a> or (202) 265-6280

# Tuesday Nights at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History 1811 R Street, NW—(1 block NE of Dupont Circle Metro-Red Line)

(Co-sponsored with the Museum)

# American Jewish History Through the Lens of Literature: Cookbooks

One session: Tuesday, February 21 7:00-8:15 p.m. Instructor: Jonina Duker

Cookbooks, a genre of literature in which women were most of the writers and readers, offer fascinating insights about the history of everyday life. Come hear what cookbooks have to tell us about Jewish life in America from 1866 to today. *Jonina Duker*, an avid reader of cookbooks, has been eating seriously for as long as she can remember. She teaches adults and children, and learns whenever she can.

JSC, NMAJMH, and Jewish War Veterans members \$15, non-members \$20

#### Folklore about the Binding of Isaac

Three sessions: Tuesdays, Feb 7, 14, 21 7:00-8:15 p.m. Instructor: Steven Braun

The story of the binding of Isaac, known in Jewish tradition as the Akedah, has gripped the popular imagination for centuries. We will study some of the voluminous folklore that has grown up around the Akedah, mostly drawn from Shalom Spiegel and Judah Goldin's book, *The Last Trial: On the Legends and Lore of the Command* to *Abraham to Offer Isaac as a Sacrifice*, (1993). *Steven Braun* is a Washington economist and long-time Fabrangen member with interests in midrash and mysticism.

JSC, NMAJMH, and JWV members \$40, non-members \$55

#### Jewish Population: Numbers Rising or Falling? America and Israel

One session: Tuesday, March 20 7:00-8:15 p.m.

**Instructor: Joshua Comenetz** 

What is the future of the Jewish population? Is the American Jewish population growing or declining? Is the share of Jewish population in Israel declining relative to the Arab population? Does Israel need to give up the West Bank and Gaza (the "territories") to maintain a Jewish majority? What will the Jewish people look like in 2050? *Joshua Comenetz* is a consultant in Jewish demographics and mapping, including for the current Jewish Community Study of New York. He has taught Jewish population and geography at the University of Florida and has published articles on the Hasidic population and other Jewish demographic topics.

JSC, NMAJMH, and JWV members \$15, non-members \$20

#### **Exploring the Novels of Saul Bellow**

Three sessions: March 6, March 20, April 3 7:00-8:15 p.m.

**Instructor: Rich Blaustein** 

Cynthia Ozick had this to say about Saul Bellow: "Among the soon-to-be-forgotten novelists of our time, Saul Bellow stays on. Surely it is for the kaleidoscopic astonishment of his sentences that he lasts. But not only." We will explore and enjoy some of Bellow's works, including *Seize the Day, Herzog*, and some short stories and essays. Students should read *Seize the Day* before the first class if possible. Students are encouraged to volunteer to present their own thoughts on some aspect of Bellow's writing or life. *Rich Blaustein*, a long-time teacher for the Study Center, first taught on Saul Bellow a decade ago. He has also taught JSC courses on James Joyce's *Ulvsses* and Freud's *Moses and Monotheism*.

JSC, NMAJMH, and JWV members \$40, non-members \$55

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Email: <u>info@jewishstudycenter.org</u> Phone: 202-332-1221 Page 3

### Wednesday Nights at Adas Israel Congregation

2850 Quebec St NW—(1 block from Cleveland Park Metro-Red Line) (Co-sponsored with Adas Israel Congregation)

#### Israelis, Arabs and the Arab Spring: Perceptions of the Other

Three sessions: Feb. 1, 8, 15 7:00-8:15 p.m. Instructors: Paul Scham, Naiem Sherbiny

Will the so-called Arab Spring change Israel's relationships with its neighbors? And will the changes in Arab societies affect those nations' views of Israel? How do these countries view one another's changing aspirations? Two seasoned observers of Israeli-Arab politics, one Jewish and one Muslim, explore Israeli-Arab relations in view of recent changes. *Paul Scham is* Executive Director of the Gildenhorn Institute for Israeli Studies at the University of Maryland and has worked for over 20 years on issues of Israeli/Palestinian peace in both Jerusalem and Washington. *Naiem Sherbiny*, who left Egypt in 1962, is the senior representative in the U.S. of the Cairo-based Ibn Khaldun Center for Development, and a board member of Library of Alexandria Foundation. Formerly a senior economist at the World Bank, he has taught at Berkeley, Wisconsin, Harvard, Georgetown, and American University at Cairo.

JSC and Adas members \$40, non-members \$55

# Jews and the 2012 Election: The Game's Afoot!

Four sessions: Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 7:00-8:15 p.m. Instructor: Steve Rabinowitz with guest speakers

Keep abreast of the presidential primary news with a uniquely Jewish slant on the 2012 elections as they unfold. Political consultant extraordinaire *Steve Rabinowitz* will emcee as campaign insiders discuss the role of the Jewish community in the unfolding election, where Jewish voters and Jewish fundraisers are leaning, what the candidates see in store for Israel, how Jewish voters have changed in this presidential cycle and how they are likely to stay the same. Speakers will include:

- Ira Forman, President Obama's campaign liaison to the Jewish community and author of the seminal book *Jews and American Politics*
- Tevi Troy, senior advisor to Mitt Romney's campaign and a former Bush White House official
- David Harris, Presidernt and CEO of the National Jewish Democratic Council
- Matt Brooks, Executive Director of the Republican Jewish Coalition and the Jewish Policy Center
- Ron Kampeas, Washington bureau chief for the JTA wire service

Keep your eye on our website, www.jewishstudycenter.org for a detailed schedule of speakers.

*Steve Rabinowitz* is President and CEO of Rabinowitz/Dorf Communications and has worked on the national staff of nine presidential campaigns and in the Clinton White House.

JSC and Adas members \$55, non-members \$75

#### .Psalms Ancient and Modern

Three sessions: March 14, 21, 28 8:15–9:25 p.m.

**Instructor: Amy Schwartz** 

The biblical Book of Psalms forms the backbone of much Jewish (and Christian) prayer. Even those familiar with this strange and haunting ancient poetry may not be aware how much contemporary poetry is threaded through with themes from and references to the psalms. Continuing our long-running journey, this class will trace ancient and modern psalms through the liturgy and through modern poets and translators inspired by them, from Robert Alter and Stephen Mitchell through Jacqueline Osherow and Myra Sklarew.

Amy Schwartz, a journalist, has taught many Study Center classes on poetry and is President of the JSC.

JSC and Adas members \$40, non-members \$55

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### Wednesday Nights at Adas Israel Congregation

2850 Quebec St, NW—(1 block from Cleveland Park Metro-Red Line)

(Co-sponsored with Adas Israel Congregation)

# Jews of the Far West Three sessions: March 14, 21, 28 7:00-8:15 p.m.

**Various Instructors** 

Not long ago, as one historian puts it, references to Jews in the West were met by the amused question, "Oh . . . were there any?" In a word, yes--Jews were conquistadors in Mexico, conversos in New Mexico, ranchers in South Dakota, farmers in Utah and traders from the California Gold Rush to Alaska and beyond. Scholarship in recent decades has unearthed and popularized this colorful history. Join us as we ride the range!

JSC and Adas members \$40, non-members \$55

Check our website: www.jewishstudycenter.org for full schedule of this class.

(The session about Jews of Alaska will be taught by the staff of *Moment Magazine*, which is leading a cruise to Alaska.)

Want to learn even more about the history of Jews in Alaska?

#### Come to Alaska with Moment Magazine!

This acclaimed national magaspecial guests Joan Nathan, Aaron David Miller,



zine is hosting a cruise to Alaska with Mitchel Levitas, Tovah Feldshuh, Jonathan Sarna and many more!

For more info: <u>www.momentcruise.com</u> For questions, call 800-707-1634

Warm up your evening ...

with Israeli Kosher Wines & Cheese Tasting —March 22, 7-9 P.M. At GW Hillel, 2300 H St, NW (near Foggy Bottom Metro)

- featuring Maurice Rosenberg, an authority on kosher wines.
  - Enjoy tasting new kosher wines and delicious cheeses

Students and JSC members \$12; non-members \$15

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For information about registration, classes or to make donations go to our website:

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Tuesdays at NMAJMH (Dupont Circle)			Wednesdays at Adas Israel (Cleveland Park)				
Session	Date	# Attend/Fee	Cost	Session	Date	# Attend/Fee	Cost
THE AKEDAH: BINDING OF ISAAC	Feb. 7, 14, 21 7-8:15 p.m.	x \$40 JSC, NMAJMH, JWV members x \$55 non-members		ARAB SPRING	Feb. 1, 8, 15 7-8:15 p.m.	x \$40 JSC, Adas members x \$55 non-members	
JEWISH COOK-	Feb. 21 7-8:15 p.m.	x \$15 JSC, NMAJMH, JWV members		ELECTION 2012	Feb. 1, 8, 15. 22 7-8:15 p.m.	x 55 JSC, Adas members X 75 non-members	
BOOKS JEWISH	Movels 20	x \$20 non-members x \$15		<u>LATKE</u> HAMENTASCH DEBATE	Feb. 29 7-9 p.m.	x 12 JSC, Adas members x 15 non-members	
POPULA- TION	March 20 7-8:15 p.m.	JSC, NMAJMH, JWV members x \$20 non-members		JEWS OF THE FAR WEST	March 14, 21, 28 7-8:15 p.m.	x 40 JSC, Adas members X 55	
NOVELS OF SAUL BELLOW	March 6, 20 April 3 7-8:15 p.m.	x \$40 JSC, NMAJMH, JWV members x \$55 non-members		PSALMS: ANCIENT & MODERN	March 14, 21, 28 8:15-9:20 p.m.	non-members x 40 JSC, Adas members X 55 non-members	
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Jewish Study Center

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JSC Class Locations—near metro stops!

National Museum of American Jewish Military History—1811 R Street, NW, DC (1 block NE of Dupont Circle North Metro—Red Line)

Adas Israel Congregation—2850 Quebec Street, NW, DC (1 block from Cleveland Park Metro—Red Line)

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