

January 2017



**Monday,
January 9th
12-1pm**

Lunch & Learn with Erin Einhorn

Join us for a conversation with author Erin Einhorn, whose book, *The Pages In Between: A Holocaust Legacy of Two Families, One Home*, tells the unexpected consequences of digging into the past. When Einhorn found the family that hid her mother from the Nazis during World War II, she thought she'd created a made-for-TV-reunion for two families thrown together by history. A man who knew her mother as a child threw his arms around her and – tears streaming down his face – told her the little girl had been a sister to him. But the initial embrace soon gave way to half a century's hurt feelings and resentments. Erin found herself apologizing for choices made years before she was born, untangling a real estate deal made on a handshake by people no longer alive and struggling to prove the death of a great-grandfather born in 1868. Her story was featured on *This American Life*. Kosher, vegetarian lunch served.

**Tuesday,
January 17th
6:30-8pm**

Memoir Writing Class

Writing is fun. It's art. It's expression. Does one really remember word for word what Dad said on that fishing boat? At the kitchen table? To write from our memories requires a bit of fiction. It requires the devices of story-telling and the form and function that fiction provides. We'll do fun writing exercises that will spark memory & imagination while learning some techniques of creative writing. You may want to write a memoir (a specific moment.) You may even want to write a poem (they don't rhyme anymore.) This seminar is for both the inexperienced writer and the experienced. Joy Gaines-Friedler is the author of three books of poetry. Her award-winning essays and poems have been published in over 50 literary magazines. Dinner included. Please RSVP to vsitron@downtownsynagogue.org.

**Monday,
January 23rd
12-1pm**

NEW RABBI SERIES! Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Shalom Kantor from Bnai Moshe: Chocolate, Slavery, and the Idolatry of \$\$\$\$

Imagine a deep, rich piece of chocolate. That multi-layered flavor experience as it coats the back of your throat with a smooth velvet-like texture, the warm feeling you get as you savor those wonderful flavors. Mmmm. **Now consider this:** According to the US Department of Labor, most of the cocoa we consume is produced in countries using child labor: Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Ghana, Nigeria. These child workers labor for long, punishing hours, using dangerous tools and facing frequent exposure to dangerous pesticides as they travel great distances in the grueling heat. And, of course, no education, leaving not much hope for a future out of poverty. By international labor laws, this is illegal. All major cocoa companies buy cocoa from farms using children, and reap profits off the backs of these kids. Join Rabbi Shalom Kantor as we learn about slavery in the chocolate industry and what Judaism says about such a situation including the need to provide economic alternatives. Lunch and fair trade chocolate will be served.

**Wednesday,
January 25th
7-9pm**

Be the Light: Hazon's Gathering of Holy Sparks

As days get shorter, and darker, we're gathering as Jews, Christians and Muslims to bring all our lights together, to fan the universal flame of love. Join IADS, Hazon Detroit, South-west's Grace in Action Detroit, and the Michigan Muslim Community Council for an evening of deeply ecumenical learning and discussion. We'll hear from Imam Mika'il Saadiq, Pastor John Cummings, and Rabbi Ariana Silverman, we'll share a kosher/halal vegetarian meal, we'll study, and we'll make herb-filled candles to take our light out into the world.

All events are held at the synagogue, free, and open to the community. Donations welcome.

Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue

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