

Monday, October 19 10:30 a.m.

INDIA: PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

DR. LESLEY SOLOMON

Please join Lesley Solomon in discussing the key events and famous people that created the modern nation of India, a major world economic and political power. We will consider images, famous quotes, statistics, and political cartoons to gain an understanding of a country with a very different past but with surprising similarities to the United States in the twenty-first century. Like the United States, India is struggling with racism, past and present, internal threats to democratic institutions (India is the world's largest democracy), rising world powers, especially China, and, of course, covid-19. While we will focus on the present, we will review India's glorious past as the birthplace of two major religions, Hinduism and Buddhism, and the source of great scientific and literary traditions.

Lesley Solomon has taught World History, American History, English, and International Relations to every grade from seven through sixteen. She also served as an administrator in the Cherry Hill, NJ schools, focusing on curriculum and professional development of teachers. Presently, she leads two seminars for secondary teachers on Teaching East Asia.

Monday, October 26 10:30 a.m.

THE ART OF STILLNESS: A DEEPER LOOK

STEPH HEILAKKA, outreach docent from the Michener Museum

BARBARA MOON BOERTZEL

The Art of Stillness: A Deeper Look with a focus on the contemporary artist Arlene Love and her Michener-owned sculpture, *Two Women at a Table*.

Steph Heilakka is a docent at the Michener Art Museum. He has led art tours internationally as well. He is a full time artist. His work can be viewed at

www.paintingmonk.com Barbara Moon Boertzel has been an artist and arts educator for over 40 years. After living in Guam for 16 years and studying hand papermaking in Japan, she returned to the states where she earned an MFA in Fiber Arts/Textiles from Cranbrook Academy of Art. She currently creates handmade artists' books, and her work can be seen on her website moonboertzel.com.

Monday, November 2 10:30 a.m.

JOB

RABBI JON CUTLER

We will be examining the Book of Job from an existential perspective and ask the fundamental life questions: When bad events happen in our lives, is it random? How do we move beyond tragic events in our own personal lives? How do we make meaning following tragedy? *Rabbi Jon Cutler was a colonel in the Marine Corps and was chief chaplain in Iraq.*

He is a Reconstructionist rabbi and is one of the most popular lecturers at Gratz.

Thursday, November 5 11:30 a.m.

RITA ROSEN POLEY

Monday, November 9 10:30

THE UNTOLD STORY OF HOW THE STORIES WERE TOLD

LOUIS SCHMIDT

For the past five years, I've appeared at many venues around the country talking about my meaningful experience interviewing Holocaust survivors for Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation. My presentation which is entitled *The Untold Story of How the Stories were Told*, usually begins with a four minute video featuring Steven Spielberg explaining the genesis of his Foundation during the filming of *Schindler's List* in Poland. That is followed by my 30-minute speech which details my intensive training and profound experience as an official interviewer for the project. The message I relate about antisemitism is, unfortunately, now more relevant than ever.

Louis Schmidt interviewed Holocaust survivors for the Shoah Foundation which was created after Steven Spielberg's Oscar win for Schindler's List. More than 55,000 testimonies bring the lessons of the Holocaust and a message of tolerance for future generations. Schmidt is a winner of three Emmy and four Ace Awards and the silver medal from the International Film and Television Festival of New York. He was formally a reporter for LOOK Magazine and a Senior Producer for NFL Films for over thirty years.

Monday, November 16 10:30 a.m.

BEV ROSEN

Monday, November 23 10:30 a.m.

A CENTURY OF STYLE: FASHION FROM 1900 TO 2000 AND BEYOND

STEPH HEILAKKA and KATHLEEN AMBROGI

This program presents an overview of women's clothing styles showing how history and culture influenced women's dress in remarkable ways with emphasis on the first sixty years of the 20th century. The program uses images and video clips to hit the high points of each era, noting how art, design, fabric and silhouettes reflect the times in which they were popular.

Kathleen Ambrogi has been a teacher of Art, Literature, and Information Technology, both in the US and abroad. This life experience suits her perfectly in her role of docent at the James A. Michener Art Museum, where she has created and presented a variety of programs for visitors and for groups meeting offsite. Her broad knowledge base includes such homegrown topics as the Pennsylvania Impressionists and Grace Kelly, along with more universal subjects, such as Fashion of the Twentieth Century. Each presentation is intended to be both informative and entertaining, with an eye to the audience's interests and experiences.

Monday, November 30 10:30 a.m.

MORRO CASTLE

BERNICE KEEBLER

On a September night in 1934, a luxury cruise liner, the *Morro Castle*, mysteriously caught fire at sea off the coast of New Jersey. Although many safety features had been built into the vessel, a series of errors and unfortunate events resulted in the complete destruction of the ship, with the loss of 134 lives. The *Morro Castle* drifted to the Asbury Park beach where it became a

tourist attraction until it was finally towed away for scrap. *Bernice Keebler is a retired teacher of English as a Second Language. A cum laude graduate of Dickinson College, she continued her education here and in France. She is the mother of a son, who makes electric violins and is in demand also as a tuner and voicer of pipe organs. She is a member of REAP, loves music and reading, and is always eager to learn something new.*

Thursday, December 3 11:30 a.m.

RITA ROSEN POLEY

Monday, December 7 10:30 a.m.

MASSACRE AT MALMEDY

MARILYN ADELMAN

This is the retelling of the events of a fateful day during World War II when, during the largest battle ever fought in the history of the US infantry and one of the bloodiest, during the most atrocious winter weather, deep in the rugged and desolate area of the Ardennes Forrest, in the tiny village of Malmedy, Belgium, 130 American soldiers of Battery B of the 285th Field Observation Unit were ambushed by the 1st Regiment of the Sixth Panzer Division of the German army led by its dashing but ruthless commander, Joachim Peiper. Ms. Adelman describes what happened to those American soldiers and the effects of the encounter on later events in the war. *Marilyn Adelman is a former secondary education social studies teacher. She later switched careers to become a paralegal and spent 35 years working for center city law firms in business and corporate law, and for a private venture capital company that invested primarily in technology companies. She has a B. S. in Secondary Education from Temple University.*

Monday, December 14 10:30 a.m.

A LIFE OF MY OWN:

MEETING ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

LINDA KENYON

Monday, December 21 10:30 a.m.

CRITICAL THINKING

DR. SUSAN ADLER

include not simply how to evaluate information and websites, but also the power of story and anecdote and the difference between evidence and anecdote. Maybe even something about civic (civil) conversation and how to really listen - what is it that people are concerned about that draws them to what seems to many of us to be irrational

Thursday, January 7 11:30 a.m.

RITA ROSEN POLEY

Wednesday, January 13 2:00 p.m.

MAIMONIDES CAFÉ

RABBI LANCE J. SUSSMAN, Ph.D

Monday, January 25 1:00 p.m.

THE POWER OF STORIES TO ENGAGE OUR EMOTIONS AND TO INSPIRE OUR CONDUCT

RABBI FRED DAVIDOW

In modern parlance we can call stories “page-turners” because they catch the attention of listeners, arouse curiosity and engage the emotions of the listeners. A set of abstract ideas and a code of laws may very well express concepts and rules with which we wholly agree but we are unlikely to live by them just because they are written down. A Hasidic proverb says, “Give people a fact and you enlighten their minds; tell them a story and you touch their souls.”

In this presentation Rabbi Davidow will share three short Talmudic tales: “Rabbi Chiyya and His Wife, the Prostitute,” “Rabbi Simeon Insults an Ugly Man,” and “Rabbi Joshua ben Levi Meets the Messiah.” These stories are sure to provoke many feelings in the listeners. Rabbi Davidow will guide the discussion with questions to aid in the process of understanding the stories.

If any conduct of ours is inspired by something we learn in one of the stories, then that story is true for us. *Rabbi Fred Davidow, ordained at Hebrew Union College in 1973, had an active career spanning 45 years as a congregational rabbi and chaplain in Miami, Atlanta and Philadelphia. He has presented a number of programs on storytelling at synagogues and for lifelong learning groups. Rabbi Davidow takes great pleasure in leading Dvar Torah sessions at Adath Jeshurun and in Center City. Some of his D'vei Torah appear in the Jewish Exponent. In 2018 Rabbi Davidow completed a book Guardians of the City: Stories for Shaping Moral Character, Twenty Dramatic Scripts Adapted from Jewish Lore. Now sheltering-in-place, he is concentrating on writing a memoir about growing up Jewish in Mississippi in the 1950's.*

Thursday, February 4, 11:30 a.m.

RITA ROSEN POLEY

Monday, February 8 time to be determined

MARCUS HAYES

Monday, February 15

CHARTER SCHOOLS

DR. ARLENE HOLTZ and BARBARA MCNEIL, ESQ.

Arlene B. Holtz, Ph.D. Arlene is the Board President of Mariana Bracetti Academy a K-12 charter school in Philadelphia. She is an educator who was an English teacher, a Vice Principal and a Principal in the School District of Philadelphia.

She earned a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania and returned there to teach future principals on the staff of the Educational Leadership Program for Aspiring Principals. She also taught educational leadership and curriculum development at Arcadia University. While teaching at Arcadia students and faculty named her Outstanding Adjunct Professor of the Year. The School District of Philadelphia twice awarded her the Rose

Lindenbaum Improvement of Education Award, first for her work as a teacher and again for her work as a principal.

Following a career in public education she worked at the Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education where she led a leadership seminar for Education Directors, and led the development of a religious school assessment tool which she introduced to Jewish educators in San Francisco, Detroit, Miami, Houston, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. She also did program evaluation for Gratz College.

Barbara has experience as both a labor lawyer and a consultant for boards and leadership teams in charter schools and non-profit organizations. She earned her Bachelors degree *cum laude* at Bryn Mawr College; and after earning her J.D. at the University of Chicago Law School, she practiced labor and employment law at Duane, Morris and Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads in Philadelphia. Later she went on to work for the labor unit at the School District of Philadelphia as Assistant General Counsel.

As the founder and principal of Barra Associates, LLC, Barbara has provided consulting services to charter schools that include: board development, strategic planning, labor negotiations, Charter Renewal Applications, Title I and Special Education Audits, as well as development of Title I school-wide plans, RFP's and bid documents for the National School Lunch Program.

She has taught courses in labor relations and negotiations in the graduate education department of Arcadia University, and race and gender issues in employment in the continuing education department at Penn State University – Abington.

Other professional experience includes her work as a Special Assistant to President Judith Rodin at the University of Pennsylvania

Wednesday, February 17 2:00 p.m.

MAIMONIDES CAFÉ

RABBI LANCE J. SUSSMAN Ph. D.

Monday, February 22

THE FALLACY OF REVERSE DISCRIMINATION

Dr. ALAN SOFFIN

When colleges accepted minority applicants who had records inferior to Caucasian students it was said such a policy was simply discrimination in reverse. The same was argued when a black contractor was selected over a more established white contractor. I will argue that this seemingly sensible complaint is based on a misunderstanding of “discrimination.”

Alan Soffin, PhD, taught at Michigan State and Temple Universities. Currently he teaches philosophy of religion at Temple's adult education center. He is an American Film Institute award winning filmmaker and an exhibited photographer. Dr. Soffin's areas of interest also include music (classical and popular), metaphysics, film, photography and political theory.

Monday, March 3 10:30 a.m.

FANNING THE SPARK – THE CREATIVE PROCESS

SHERRY V. OSTROFF

How does a writer find the idea, the spark, that flares into a compelling novel - worthy enough to engage a reader for hours? Follow Author Sherry V. Ostroff as she describes her journey into the world of fictional writing and the creative process from its embryonic stage until it becomes a tale that hooks readers from the first page. *Sherry V. Ostroff is the author of two books: The Lucky One, a memoir, and Caledonia, a multi-generational tale of a young Jewish woman who gets caught up in a history-changing event in the late 17th century. Currently, she is writing the sequel to Caledonia. Ostroff earned a Bachelor's in education from Temple University and a Master's in history from Millersville University. Originally from Philadelphia, the author resides in Lancaster County with her high school sweetheart. Copies of Caledonia and The Lucky One will be available for sale on Amazon.*

This message is from Sherry Ostroff – I'd like to offer ten free signed copies of *Caledonia* or *The Lucky One* to your attendees. Here's what they have to do. They would have to contact me by email (swostroff528@gmail.com) to request a copy. In exchange, for a free book, they would have to attend the program and write a review on Amazon. That's it. Do you think that is something we could work out? If not, no problem. (I read *The Lucky One*. It's great.)

Monday, March 8 10:30 a.m.

SCULPTURE OF ANISH KAPOOR (b. 1954) CLOUD GATE, CHICAGO, IL (2006)

ARLENE DIANE SPECTOR

Sir Anish Kapoor was born in 1954 in Mumbai, India to a Hindu father and an Iraqi-Jewish mother. Kapoor is a British-Indian sculptor who specializes in installation and conceptual art—especially known for Cloud Gate (2006), located in Chicago, Illinois.

Monday, March 15 10:30 a.m.

KI IN THE 1930'S:

WHAT DID RABBI FINESHRIBER HAVE TO SAY?

EVONNE KRUGER AND ISAAK KRUGER

Monday, March 22 10:30 a.m.

MEDICAL ETHICS

DR. ROBERT MICHAELSON

Dr. Robert Michaelson has collected interesting cases throughout his career regarding challenging and controversial issues in providing patient care. It is these that he will share and promote dialogue. *Dr. Michaelson has practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology for 37 year at Abington Hospital. He was a Trustee of the Hospital and President of the Medical Staff. He taught medical residents, medical, Nurse Practitioner, and PA students, He has taken courses and given lectures in Public Health at Arcadia University. At KI he is a current Trustee and member of the Social Justice Policy Task force and the Inclusion Committee. He is a current member of the Upper Dublin Human Relations commission*

Monday, March 29 10:30 a.m.

HAZZAN DAVID TILMAN

Hazzan David F. Tilman, DHL

Conductor, Shir KI, the Adult Choir,

And Pastoral Outreach,

Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel,

Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

Music Director and Conductor:

SING HALLELUJAH at the Kimmel Center

Hazzan Emeritus, Beth Sholom Congregation, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

Monday, April 5 10:30 a.m.

SALONICA AND SARAJEVO: BALKAN SEPHARDI METROPOLISES

JOSEPH BENETOV

As Sephardi Jews settled in the Ottoman Empire, Salonica became one of the most important centers of Jewish life. The city thus earned the monikers “Madre de Israel” (“Mother in Israel”) and “Jerusalem of the Balkans.” Further inland, multiethnic Sarajevo was also home to a thriving Jewish community and was sometimes referred to as Little Jerusalem. Our talk will highlight some of the most important figures and events from the Jewish histories of Salonica and Sarajevo. How did the famous Sarajevo Haggadah survive both Nazi occupation and the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s? Learn about the notable moment in the history of Bosnian Jews known as the Sarajevo Purim. What effect did the charismatic false messiah Sabbatai Zevi have on the Jews of 17th-century Salonica? We will also travel through the picturesque sites of Salonica and Sarajevo and visit their sumptuous synagogues, the iconic White Tower of Thessaloniki, the colorful Old Bazaar of Sarajevo, and much more.

Monday, April 12 10:30 a.m.

FEMALE ARCHITECTS: WHERE ARE THEY?

ANDY CLYMAN

Half of the student body in architectural programs are women yet only 18% of licensed architects are women. There are huge wage and social inequalities. Worldwide, only three of the top one hundred firms are headed by women. Why is this??? *Andrea was a history teacher and then a counselor in the Philadelphia School System. After retiring she joined REAP and found enjoyment in research projects, especially artists. This talk is different, examining female inequalities in the field of architecture.*

Monday, April 19 10:30 a.m.

AMERICAN PORTRAITURE

JOANNE BECK

Thursday, April 22 7:00 p.m.

THE SLIVER OF LIGHT by JOSH FATTAL

LAURA FATTAL

Monday, April 26 10:30 a.m. Barbara Bernstein

LESCAUX CAVES

DR. STEPHEN PHILIPS

215-898 4001 (Work)

610- 664-1518 (cell)

He prefers to communicate by e-mail srphilli@upenn.edu

Barbara 215-947-2788

Monday, May 3 10:30 a.m.

IMPRESSIONISM

STEPHEN POLLACK

Impressionism – The Movement: How French artists of the 19th Century created the first modern “Art Movement” in history. A view of the development of Impressionism in French culture that spread to other places – especially England, America and Russia. Yet, ironically one of the most important influences that inspired Impressionism was the work of the American poets Edgar Allen Poe and Walt Whitman – Impressionism became an outspoken style that infected the points of view of Painting, Poetry, Literature and Music, and opened the doors to Modern Art.

Monday, May 10 10:30 a.m.

OCTAVIUS V. CATTO: A LEGACY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

AMY COHEN

Octavius V. Catto: A Legacy for the 21st Century

Octavius Catto was a 19th century scholar, athlete, community leader, and civil rights activist who spent most of his life in Philadelphia. Amy Cohen will share a Mid-Atlantic Emmy Award winning 15-minute film she produced to coincide with the 2018 installation of a memorial to Catto at City Hall. Following the film screening, Ms. Cohen will lead an interactive discussion about Catto's current relevance. *Amy Cohen spent 20 years as a social studies teacher most recently at Masterman. She is currently the Director of Education at History Making Productions where she develops educational materials to accompany documentaries about the Philadelphia region.*

Monday, May 17 10:30 a.m.

AMERICAN EDUCATION: DEFINING A NATION

SUSAN ADLER

This talk will examine the development of the public school in the U.S. beginning with the rise of the “common school” in the 19th century. The talk will explore changing educational aims that emerged as the nation developed. Educational aims have shifted in importance from unifying the country in the early years to the importance of educating young people who will contribute to economic strength and prosperity. Throughout, a third major goal of education, social mobility, has remained important. *Susan Adler is Professor Emerita in Education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. From December 2009 – December 2011 she was a Visiting Professor at the National Institute of Education in Singapore. She is the former president of the National Council for the Social Studies.*

Monday, May 24 10:30 a.m.

THE JEWISH CONNECTION TO ART

PHYLLIS GOTKIN

Thursday, June 3 11:30 a.m.

OVER THERE: SONGS AND LETTERS OF WWI

A FULLY STAGED ONE-MAN SHOW

NEILL HARTLEY

Neill Hartley presents a captivating one-man show featuring iconic songs and letters from World War I. This fully staged program will present the remarkable stories of the war, told in the words of the men and women who lived it. Entertaining and informative for audience of all ages.

During WWI, Americans young and old threw their collective energy into the war effort. Patriotic loyalty and “Americanism” pervaded the country. Songs, letters and articles kept Americans abreast of the war efforts. During the war, letter writing was the main form of communication between soldiers and their loved ones, helping to ease the pain of separation.

At home, American songwriters were exempt from the national policy of paper rationing. Sheet music was as important as arms production. Songs such as “Over There” and “Pack up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag” embodied the American spirit, and have been passed from generation to generation.

Following the performance, there is a short informational section about the time period, followed by a question and answer with the audience.

The presentation can be easily be adapted to fit a time slot from 40 minutes to one hour and may include any and all parts listed above. Age suitability for the show ranges from age 6 to adult, and the group size is flexible.

Neill Hartley is professional actor who has performed with many local and regional theaters and is on the theater faculty of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA.

"We'll be over, we're coming over,
And we won't come back till it's over, over there."

