

# BITES, BOOKS, and BUBBLY



2022-2023

## THURSDAYS at NOON

### Bites & Books is back with a new added twist - something bubbly!

Join us for six sessions of discussion and community as we explore a range of topics and titles. At each session you will find a good nosh and a bubbly drink (think sparkling juices, water, or even mimosas!) as well as great conversation.

#### August 25:

Facilitator: Rabbi Megan Brudney  
Book: *Sacred Housekeeping* by Harriet Rosetto

#### October 13:

Facilitator: Susie Weiner  
Book: *How to Find Your Way in the Dark: A Novel* by Derek B. Miller

#### December 1:

Facilitator: Rabbi Mark Miller  
Book: *People Love Dead Jews* by Dara Horn

#### February 9:

Facilitator: Cantor Rachel Gottlieb Kalmowitz  
Book: *Morality* by Jonathan Sacks

#### April 13:

Facilitator: Laura Gottlieb  
Book: *Crazy to Leave You: A Novel* by Marilyn Simon Rothstein

#### June 8:

Facilitator: Debbie Morosohk  
Book: *The Prison Minyan* by Jonathan Stone

For more information or to RSVP, contact Laura Gottlieb, Director of Cultural Resources at [lgottlieb@tbeonline.org](mailto:lgottlieb@tbeonline.org).

#### AUGUST 25

##### *Sacred Housekeeping*

by Harriet Rosetto

Facilitator: Rabbi Megan Brudney

An honest autobiography of a courageous woman and social worker, who took an interest in the unpopular cause of helping incarcerated Jewish men re-enter society and made it her life's passion. From that passion was born Beit T'Shuvah, a once tiny halfway house that has grown into a renowned treatment organization. Her voyage is remarkable and an inspiration to all people. This is the personal story of the obstacles she surmounted and the successes she encountered. This book also tells the unconventional love story of Harriet Rosetto and her husband, Rabbi Mark Borovitz.

#### OCTOBER 13

##### *How To Find Your Way In The Dark*

by Derek B. Miller

Facilitator: Susie Weiner

Twelve-year old Sheldon Horowitz is still recovering from the tragic loss of his mother only a year ago when a suspicious traffic accident steals the life of his father in rural Massachusetts. It is 1938, and Sheldon, who was in the truck, emerges an orphan hell-bent on revenge. He takes that fire with him to Hartford, where he embarks on a new life under the roof of his buttoned-up uncle. Sheldon, his teenage cousins Abe and Mirabelle, and his best friend, Lenny, will contend with tradition and orthodoxy, appeasement and patriotism, mafia hitmen and angry accordion players, all while World War II takes center stage alongside a hurricane in New England and comedians in the Catskills. With his eye always on vengeance for his father's murder, Sheldon stakes out his place in a world he now understands is comprised largely of crimes: right and wrong, big and small.

#### DECEMBER 1

##### *People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present*

by Dara Horn

Facilitator: Rabbi Mark Miller

Reflecting on subjects as far-flung as the international veneration of Anne Frank, the blockbuster traveling exhibition called "Auschwitz," the Jewish history of the Chinese city of Harbin, and the little known "righteous Gentile" Varian Fry, Dara Horn challenges us to confront the reasons why there might be so much fascination with Jewish deaths, as emblematic of the worst of evils the world has to offer, and so little respect for Jewish lives, as they continue to unfold in the present. Horn draws on her own family's life to assert the vitality, complexity, and depth of this life

against an anti-Semitism that, far from being disarmed by the mantra of "Never forget," is on the rise.

#### FEBRUARY 9

##### *Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided*

by Jonathan Sacks

Facilitator: Cantor Rachel Gottlieb Kalmowitz

In *Morality*, respected faith leader and public intellectual Jonathan Sacks traces today's crisis to our loss of a strong, shared moral code and our elevation of self-interest over the common good. Sacks leads readers from ancient Greece to the Enlightenment to the present day to show that there is no liberty without morality and no freedom without responsibility, arguing that we all must play our part in rebuilding a common moral foundation. A major work of moral philosophy, *Morality* is an inspiring vision of a world in which we can all find our place and face the future without fear.

#### APRIL 13

##### *Crazy To Leave You: A Novel*

by Marilyn Simon Rothstein

Facilitator: Laura Gottlieb

Forty-one years old, the last of her friends to marry, and down to a size 12, Lauren Leo is in her gown and about to tie the knot. There's just one thing missing: the groom. With one blindsiding text, Lauren is unceremoniously dumped at the altar. Picking her heart up off the floor, Lauren turns to her work in advertising as she gathers courage to move on and plan her next step. She should know by now that nothing in life goes according to plan. What lies ahead is the road to self-acceptance and at last feeling worthy. With a new way to measure love and success, Lauren finds a second chance in the most unexpected place.

#### JUNE 8

##### *The Prison Minyan*

by Jonathan Stone

Facilitator: Debbie Morosohk

The scene is Otisville Prison, upstate New York. A crew of fraudsters, tax evaders, trigamists and forgers discuss matters of right and wrong in a Talmudic study and prayer group, or 'minyan', led by a rabbi who's a fellow convict. As the only prison in the federal system with a kosher deli, Otisville is the choice for white-collar Jewish offenders, many of whom secretly like the place. They've learned to game the system, so when the regime is toughened to punish a newly arrived celebrity convict who has upset the 45th president, they find devious ways to fight back. And when a visiting poetry professor ends up in dire peril when she sees too much. Will they step up to save her?