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Contact Laura Gottlieb, Director  
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248-865-0627.

# bites & BOOKS

**THURSDAYS at NOON**

## 2025

### SEPTEMBER 4

#### *Songs for the Broken Hearted*

A Novel by Ayelet Tsabari

Facilitator: Debbie Morosohk



1950: Thousands of Yemeni Jews have immigrated to Israel. In an overcrowded immigrant camp, a young man happens upon Saida. In the midst of chaos, they fall in love. But they weren't supposed to; Saida is married and has a child. 1995: Thirty-something Zohara, Saida's daughter, has been living in New York City. She hasn't looked back since leaving home. But when her sister calls to tell her their mother has died, she gets on a plane to Israel with no return ticket. Soon Zohara finds herself on an unexpected path that leads to shocking truths about her family—secrets that force her to question everything she thought she knew.

### NOVEMBER 6

#### *Be Ready When the Luck Happens*

A Memoir by Ina Garten

Facilitator: Laura Gottlieb



In her long-awaited memoir, Ina Garten—aka the Barefoot Contessa, shares her personal story with readers hungry for a seat at her table. In her unmistakable voice, she brings her past and her process to life in a high-spirited and no-holds-barred memoir. From a difficult childhood to meeting the love of her life, Jeffrey, to answering an ad for a specialty food store, to author of bestselling cookbooks and celebrated television host, Ina has blazed her own trail. Now, she invites readers to experience her story in vivid detail and to share the important life lessons: do what you love, swing for the fences, and always *Be Ready When the Luck Happens*.

## 2026

### JANUARY 8

#### *Let There Be Light: The Real Story of Her Creation*

A Graphic Novel

by Liana Finck

Facilitator: Rabbi Megan Brudney



In this ambitious and transcendent graphic novel, Liana Finck turns her keen eye to the story of Genesis with God as a woman, Abraham as a resident of New York City, and Rebekah as a robot, among many other delightful twists. In Finck's retelling, the millennia-old stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham and Isaac, and Jacob and Esau haunt the pages like familiar but partially forgotten nursery rhymes transmuted by time but still deeply resonant. With her trademark insightfulness and wry humor, Finck accentuates the latent sweetness and timeless wisdom of the original text, infusing it with wit and whimsy while retaining every ounce of its spiritual heft.

### MARCH 12

#### *Klara's Truth: A Novel*

by Susan Weissbach Friedman

Facilitator: Susie Weiner



Dr. Klara Lieberman, a professor of archaeology, has just received a letter from her estranged mother, Bessie. Her father, the man who has been absent from her life, is dead. But now the Polish government is giving financial reparations for land it stole from its Jewish citizens, and Bessie wants the money. Klara flies to Warsaw, determined to learn more. There, she begins to piece together her father's story. She also connects with extended family, begins a romantic relationship, and discovers her calling: repairing the hundreds of forgotten, pre-War Jewish cemeteries in Poland. Along the way, she finds the tools to make peace with her past and build purposefully toward a bigger future.

### MAY 14

#### *Judaism Without Tribalism: A Guide to Being a Blessing to All the Peoples of the Earth*

by Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Facilitator: Rabbi Mark Miller



This book investigates Judaism at its best—and sanest. It strips away outdated and harmful beliefs that have accrued over the centuries and returns to the essential truths that are too-often ignored in favor of tradition, tribal identity, or the claims of the powerful. The result is a vibrant Judaism for the 21st century and beyond. It is a Judaism that is open and accessible to everyone. Judaism without tribalism is a call to be a light unto the nations. It is a Judaism free from legalism and tribalism—a Judaism that refuses to serve patriarchy and power. Written by one of today's most respected Jewish thinkers, *Judaism Without Tribalism* is a manifesto and a call for inner and outer spiritual revolution.

### JULY 16

#### *Last Summer at the Golden Hotel*

A Novel by Elyssa Friedland

Facilitator: Rachel Ellis



In its heyday, The Golden Hotel was the crown jewel of the hotter-than-hot Catskills vacation scene. For years, the Goldman and Weingold families have presided over this glamorous resort. But the Catskills are not what they used to be – and neither is the relationship between the families. As the management begins to fall apart, a tempting offer to sell forces the families together to make a heart-wrenching decision. Can they save their beloved Golden or is it too late? Secrets emerge, dramas and financial scandal erupt, and everyone from the traditional grandparents to the millennial grandchildren wants a say in the hotel's future. Business and pleasure clash in this fast-paced, hilarious, nostalgia-filled story, where they rediscover the magic of a bygone era of nonstop fun even as they grapple with what may be their last resort.